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*Bill Analysis*  
*Legislative Service Commission*

## **H.B. 524**

126th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps. Martin, J. McGregor, Seitz, Bocchieri, Chandler, Wagoner, Cassell,  
Fende**

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Adds meningitis, diphtheria, and pertussis to the immunizations pharmacists are permitted to administer to adults.
- Lowers the minimum age to 14 (from 18) for individuals to receive influenza immunizations from pharmacists.
- Permits pharmacy interns working under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer influenza immunizations to adults.
- Permits pharmacists to administer epinephrine and diphenhydramine to individuals in emergency situations resulting from adverse reactions to the immunizations administered by a pharmacist or pharmacy intern.
- Revises the requirements for the protocols pharmacists and pharmacy interns must comply with when administering immunizations.

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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

#### **Administration of immunizations by a pharmacist**

Current law allows pharmacists to administer influenza, pneumonia, tetanus, hepatitis A, and hepatitis B immunizations to adults. The bill permits pharmacists to administer immunizations for meningitis, diphtheria, and pertussis, in addition to the immunizations authorized by current law. Under the bill, pharmacists are also permitted to administer epinephrine and diphenhydramine to individuals in emergency situations resulting from adverse reactions to the immunizations.

Current law authorizes pharmacists to administer influenza immunizations only to adults (individuals 18 years of age or older). The bill lowers the minimum age to 14 years for individuals to receive influenza immunizations from pharmacists.

### **Administration of immunizations by a pharmacy intern**

The State Board of Pharmacy operates an internship program for the purpose of providing the practical experience necessary to practice as a pharmacist. An individual who desires to become a pharmacy intern must apply for licensure from the Board. An applicant is issued a license if, in the opinion of the Board, the applicant is actively pursuing an educational program in preparation for licensure as a pharmacist and meets the other requirements of the Board.

The bill allows pharmacy interns working under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer immunizations for influenza to adults. It requires pharmacy interns to meet the training and procedural requirements pharmacists must meet and prohibits pharmacy interns from administering immunizations if they do not meet those requirements.

### **Requirements for the administration of immunizations**

To be authorized to engage in the administration of immunizations, current law requires pharmacists to complete an approved course in the administration of immunizations<sup>1</sup> and receive and maintain certification to perform basic life-support procedures.<sup>2</sup> The bill provides that pharmacy interns are subject to the same requirements.

Current law also requires pharmacists to practice in accordance with a definitive set of treatment guidelines specified in a protocol.<sup>3</sup> This protocol must include a requirement that the pharmacist observe an individual who has been immunized to determine whether the individual has an adverse reaction to the

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<sup>1</sup> *The course must be approved by the State Board of Pharmacy as meeting standards established for such courses by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Public Health Service of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.*

<sup>2</sup> *The certification must be from American Red Cross or American Heart Association for successfully completing a basic life-support training course.*

<sup>3</sup> *The protocol must be established by a physician and approved by the State Board of Pharmacy.*

immunization.<sup>4</sup> The bill authorizes pharmacy interns, as well as pharmacists, to observe individuals for adverse reactions.

Another provision of a protocol must require the pharmacist to notify an individual's family physician, or if the individual has no family physician, the board of health of the health district in which the individual resides, not later than thirty days after administering an immunization to the individual. The bill eliminates the notification requirement for influenza immunizations.

The bill adds a provision requiring protocols to also include procedures to be followed by a pharmacist in administering epinephrine, diphenhydramine, or both, to an individual who has an adverse reaction to an immunization administered by the pharmacist.

### **Delegation**

Current law prohibits a pharmacist from delegating to another person the pharmacist's authority to administer immunizations. The bill modifies this restriction to provide that no pharmacists may delegate to another person the pharmacist's authority to "engage in or supervise the administration of immunizations."

### **State Board of Pharmacy rules**

The bill retains current law authorizing the State Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules regarding the approval of courses in administration of immunizations and approval of protocols to be followed by pharmacists and pharmacy interns in engaging in the administration of immunizations. The bill also requires that the Board adopt rules to provide for the following:

(1) Procedures to be followed by pharmacists and pharmacy interns in obtaining from the individual's parent or legal guardian permission to administer influenza immunizations to an individual older than 13 and younger than 18 years of age;

(2) Protocols that specify locations at which a pharmacist or a pharmacy intern may engage in the administration of immunizations.

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<sup>4</sup> *The length of time and location of the observation is to be specified in rules adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy.*

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## **HISTORY**

ACTION

DATE

Introduced

03-01-06

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