



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Committee Bill No. 171

LCO No. 5816



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT ALLOWING PHARMACISTS TO PRESCRIBE BIRTH CONTROL MEDICATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection;

4 (2) "Emergency contraceptive" means a drug, or a combination of
5 drugs, approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration to
6 prevent pregnancy as soon as possible following (A) unprotected sexual
7 intercourse, or (B) a known or suspected contraceptive failure;

8 (3) "Hormonal contraceptive" means a drug, including, but not
9 limited to, a hormonal contraceptive patch, an intravaginal hormonal
10 contraceptive or an oral hormonal contraceptive, composed of a
11 hormone, or a combination of hormones, approved by the federal Food
12 and Drug Administration to prevent pregnancy;

13 (4) "Legend drug" has the same meaning as provided in section 20-
14 571 of the general statutes;

15 (5) "Pharmacist" has the same meaning as provided in section 20-571
16 of the general statutes;

17 (6) "Pharmacy" has the same meaning as provided in section 20-571
18 of the general statutes;

19 (7) "Pharmacy technician" has the same meaning as provided in
20 section 20-571 of the general statutes; and

21 (8) "Prescribe" means to order, or designate a remedy or any
22 preparation of, a legend drug for a specific patient.

23 (b) A pharmacist certified in accordance with the provisions of this
24 section may prescribe, in good faith, an emergency contraceptive or
25 hormonal contraceptive to a patient sixteen years of age or older subject
26 to the following conditions:

27 (1) The pharmacist has completed an educational training program
28 that (A) concerns prescribing emergency contraceptives and hormonal
29 contraceptives by a pharmacist, (B) addresses appropriate medical
30 screening of patients, contraindications, drug interactions, treatment
31 strategies and modifications and when to refer patients to medical
32 providers, and (C) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for
33 Pharmacy Education;

34 (2) The pharmacist has reviewed the most current version of the
35 United States Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use
36 published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or any
37 successor document thereto, prior to prescribing any emergency
38 contraceptive or hormonal contraceptive and, if the pharmacist deviates
39 from the guidance provided in such document, documents the
40 pharmacist's rationale in deviating from such guidance in writing;

41 (3) Prior to dispensing an emergency contraceptive or hormonal
42 contraceptive and at least once per calendar year thereafter for any
43 returning patient, the pharmacist completes a screening document,
44 which the department shall make available on the department's Internet

45 web site, and the pharmacist, or the pharmacy that employs such
46 pharmacist, retains such document for at least three years, except
47 nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prevent a pharmacist,
48 in the pharmacist's professional discretion, from issuing a prescription
49 for a hormonal contraceptive for a period not to exceed twelve months
50 or from requiring more frequent screenings;

51 (4) If the pharmacist determines that prescribing an emergency
52 contraceptive or hormonal contraceptive to a patient is clinically
53 appropriate, the pharmacist shall (A) counsel the patient about what the
54 patient should monitor and when the patient should seek additional
55 medical attention, and (B) send notice to any health care provider that
56 the patient identifies as the patient's primary care provider or, if the
57 patient does not disclose the identity of the patient's primary care
58 provider, provide to the patient any relevant documentation; and

59 (5) The pharmacist provides to the patient a document outlining age-
60 appropriate health screenings that are consistent with recommendations
61 made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

62 (c) A pharmacy technician may, at a pharmacist's request, assist the
63 pharmacist in prescribing an emergency contraceptive or hormonal
64 contraceptive to a patient by providing screening documentation to the
65 patient, taking and recording the patient's blood pressure and
66 documenting the patient's medical history, provided the pharmacy
67 technician has completed an educational training program that satisfies
68 the requirements established in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this
69 section.

70 (d) If a pharmacist is morally or ethically opposed to issuing a
71 prescription for an emergency contraceptive or a hormonal
72 contraceptive, the pharmacist shall provide to any patient who requests
73 such a prescription a list of the nearest pharmacies that may provide
74 such a prescription to the patient.

75 (e) Each pharmacy shall maintain copies of all documents concerning

76 any screening performed under this section for at least three years, and
77 each pharmacy shall, upon request by the department, make such
78 screening documents available to the department for inspection.

79 (f) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt
80 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to
81 implement the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To allow increased access to birth control medication.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

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