

2023 -- H 5282

LC001123

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES

Introduced By: Representatives Vella-Wilkinson, Noret, Morales, Diaz, Lima, Donovan, Ackerman, McNamara, Bennett, and J. Lombardi

Date Introduced: February 01, 2023

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 5-19.1 of the General Laws entitled "Pharmacies" is hereby amended
2 by adding thereto the following section:

3 **5-19.1-36. Pharmacists -- Contraceptives -- Prescribing.**

4 (a) In accordance with chapter 19.1 of title 5 and adopted by the state board of pharmacy,
5 a pharmacist may prescribe and dispense all short-term, FDA-approved hormonal contraceptives.

6 (b) The state board of pharmacy shall adopt rules to establish, in consultation with the
7 Rhode Island medical board, the Rhode Island state board of nursing and the Rhode Island
8 department of health, and in consideration of guidelines established by the American College of
9 Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

10 (c) A pharmacist shall be required to:

11 (1) Complete educational training approved by the state board of pharmacy that is related
12 to prescribing hormonal contraceptives. This training shall include training on counseling on all
13 methods of FDA-approved contraceptives, including those the pharmacist is not able to prescribe;

14 (2) Provide a self-screening risk assessment tool, based on the current version of the U.S.
15 Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use developed by the Federal Centers for Disease
16 Control and Prevention, that the patient must complete prior to the pharmacist's prescribing the
17 hormonal contraceptive;

18 (3) Provide the patient with a written record of the hormonal contraceptive prescribed and
19 dispensed and advise the patient to consult with a primary care practitioner or women's health care

1 practitioner; and

2 (4) Dispense the contraceptives to the patient as soon as practicable after the pharmacist
3 issues the prescription.

4 (d) All state and federal laws governing insurance coverage of contraceptive drugs,
5 devices, products and services shall apply to contraceptives prescribed by a pharmacist under this
6 section.

7 (e) Any individual health plan or group health plan and any health coverage through
8 Medicaid or any equivalent state-sponsored Medicaid program shall cover hormonal contraceptives
9 that are prescribed and dispensed by a pharmacist, including contraceptive counseling, if those
10 contraceptives would otherwise be covered if prescribed by another type of health care provider.
11 Contraceptives prescribed and dispensed pursuant to this section, including contraceptive
12 counseling, shall be covered if provided by an out-of-network pharmacist.

13 (f) The Rhode Island state pharmacy board should track and report on accessibility and use,
14 including the number and geographic locations of participating pharmacy stores; and number of
15 pharmacists that are eligible to prescribe.

16 (g) Pharmacies should display signs in stores and on websites indicating on-site, behind-
17 the-counter availability of contraceptives.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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1 This act would authorize a pharmacist to prescribe and dispense hormonal contraceptives,
2 provided that the pharmacist has completed a training program approved by the state board of
3 pharmacy.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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