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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES

Introduced By: Senators Kallman, Lauria, Zurier, Mack, Murray, Ujifusa, Bell, and
DiMario

Date Introduced: February 26, 2025

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5-19.1-36 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-19.1 entitled
2 "Pharmacies" is hereby amended to read as follows:

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

4 (a) In accordance with this chapter and adopted by the state board of pharmacy, a
5 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 healthcare

1 practitioner;

2 (4) Notify the patient’s primary care provider that the pharmacist prescribed and/or
3 dispensed a short-term, FDA-approved hormonal contraceptive. If the patient does not have a
4 primary care provider, or refuses consent to notify the patient’s primary care provider, the
5 pharmacist shall provide the patient a list of physicians, clinics, or other healthcare providers to
6 contact regarding follow-up care; and

7 (5) Dispense the contraceptives to the patient as soon as practicable after the pharmacist
8 issues the prescription.

9 (d) All state and federal laws governing insurance coverage of contraceptive drugs,
10 devices, products, and services shall apply to contraceptives prescribed by a pharmacist under this
11 section; ~~provided, however, an initial prescription issued pursuant to the provisions of this section~~
12 ~~shall be limited to up to a three-month (3) supply.~~

13 (e) Any individual health plan or group health plan and any health coverage through any
14 commercial health plan shall cover hormonal contraceptives that are prescribed and dispensed by
15 a pharmacist, including contraceptive counseling, if those contraceptives would otherwise be
16 covered if prescribed by another type of healthcare provider.

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

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

22 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 amend the current law so that initial contraceptive prescriptions would no
2 longer be limited to a three-month supply. The act would also provide that the state board of
3 pharmacy adopt rules only in consultation with Rhode Island department of health, and no longer
4 in consultation with the Rhode Island medical board and the Rhode Island state board of nursing.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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