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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 BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES

Introduced By: Senators Lauria, Valverde, Kallman, Murray, Felag, DiMario, Bissailon,
Thompson, Urso, and Acosta

Date Introduced: February 26, 2025

Referred To: Senate 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 **5-19.1-37. Continuation of therapy prescription refill.**

4 In the event a pharmacist receives a request for a prescription refill, and the pharmacist is
5 unable to readily obtain refill authorization from the prescriber, or the patient does not have a
6 prescriber, the pharmacist may dispense a one-time refill for continuation of therapy, up to, but no
7 more than one hundred (100) days of the prescribed medication provided that:

8 (1) The prescription is not for a drug in Schedule II-V appearing in chapter 28 of title 21;

9 (2) The medication is essential to the maintenance of life or to the continuation of therapy
10 for a chronic condition;

11 (3) In the pharmacist's professional judgment, the interruption of therapy might produce
12 undesirable health consequences or may cause physical or mental discomfort; and

13 (4) The dispensing pharmacist notifies the prescriber of dispensing the refill within seven
14 (7) business days. If no current prescriber exists, the pharmacist shall maintain and document
15 details of the transaction.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES

1 This act would authorize pharmacists to dispense a one-time refill, for up to one hundred
2 days under the following conditions:

- 3 1. The pharmacist is unable to readily obtain a refill authorization from the prescriber, or
4 the patient does not have a prescriber;
- 5 2. The prescription is not for a drug in Schedule II-V
- 6 3. Medication is essential to maintain life or for a chronic condition;
- 7 4. The pharmacist has judged that stopping medication might produce undesirable health
8 risks or physical or mental discomfort; and
- 9 5. The pharmacist notifies the prescriber of the refill within seven business days, or if no
10 current prescriber exists, the pharmacist will maintain detailed records of the
11 transaction.

12 This act would take effect on July 1, 2026.

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