

2022 -- S 2330

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES

Introduced By: Senators Anderson, Mack, Calkin, Miller, Acosta, Valverde, Quezada,  
and Kallman

Date Introduced: February 15, 2022

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 **5-19.1-36. 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 a training program approved by the state board of pharmacy that is related to  
12 prescribing hormonal contraceptives. This training program shall include training on counseling on  
13 all methods of FDA-approved contraceptives, including those the pharmacist is not able to  
14 prescribe;

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

19 (3) Refer the patient to the patient's primary care practitioner or women's health care

1 practitioner upon prescribing and dispensing the hormonal contraceptive patch or self-administered  
2 oral hormonal contraceptive;

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

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

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

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

17 (f) The Rhode Island state pharmacy board should track and report on accessibility and use,  
18 including the number and geographic locations of participating pharmacy stores; number of  
19 pharmacists that have successfully completed the training protocol; and whether contraceptives are  
20 adequately stocked in stores.

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

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES

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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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