

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
2025-2026 (194th) BILL SUMMARY**

Bill No: H1091

Title: AN ACT RELATIVE TO PHARMACISTS AS HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Sponsor: Rep. Christine P. Barber (*Somerville*)

Hearing Date: April 29, 2025

Reporting Deadline: June 28, 2025

Prior History:

2023-24 (H4066): Reported favorably; Referred to Health Care Financing; Ordered to a House Study

2019-20 (S1297): Referred to Public Health: Reported favorably; Referred to Health Care Financing; Deadline extended; Senate ought not to pass; No further action taken

2017-18 (H1214): Referred to Public Health: Reported favorably; Referred to Health Care Financing; Ordered to a House Study

2015-16 (H2041): Referred to Public Health: Reported favorably; Referred to Health Care Financing; Ordered to a House Study

Similar Matters: S800 (Moore – Identical)

CURRENT LAW:

M.G.L. c. 94C Controlled Substances Act

M.G.L. c. 111 Public Health § 1 Definitions

"Health care provider", any doctor of medicine, osteopathy, or dental science, or a registered nurse, registered pharmacist, social worker, doctor of chiropractic, or psychologist licensed under the provisions of chapter one hundred and twelve, or an intern, or a resident, fellow, or medical officer licensed under section nine of said chapter one hundred and twelve, or a hospital, clinic or nursing home licensed under the provisions of chapter one hundred and eleven and its agents and employees, or a public hospital and its agents and employees.

Chapter 528 of the Acts of 2008, An Act Establishing Collaborative Drug Therapy Management § 3

Defines collaborative drug therapy management as the initiating, monitoring, modifying and discontinuing of a patient's drug therapy by a pharmacist in accordance with a collaborative practice agreement; provided, however, that collaborative drug therapy management may include: collecting and reviewing patient histories; obtaining and checking vital signs, including pulse, temperature, blood pressure and respiration; and, under the supervision of, or in direct consultation with, a physician, ordering and evaluating the results of laboratory tests directly related to drug therapy when performed in accordance with approved protocols applicable to the practice setting and when the evaluation does not include a diagnostic component.

Chapter 260 of the Acts of 2020, An Act promoting a resilient healthcare system that puts patients first, § 24

Recognizes pharmacists as health care providers.

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes a protocol for pharmacists to act as healthcare providers.

- Permits the department of public health to establish standard procedures for pharmacists to test, screen and initiate treatment for qualified health condition including influenza, streptococcal infections, COVID-19 or any other emerging and existing public health threats identified by the department.
- Permits the delegation of administrative and technical tasks to pharmacy technicians working under the direct supervision of a pharmacist.
- Requires that pharmacies be compliant with the federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA), corresponding regulations and state screening procedures to order, test, screen or treat health conditions.
- Facilitates the establishment of adequate pharmacy compensation through the development of provider and consult codes, to be determined by an insurance carrier or pharmacy benefit manager.
- Requires provider non-discrimination in insurer reimbursement.
- Requires insurers to reimburse any pharmacist operating within the scope of a pharmacist's license for services or procedures that would be covered had they been performed by a physician, an advanced practice nurse, or a physician's assistant.