



Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2015

File No. 129

Senate Bill No. 522

Senate, March 19, 2015

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ADMINISTERED BY NURSING HOMES TO VETERANS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-521c of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 No nursing home facility, as defined in section 19a-521, or
4 residential care home, as defined in section 19a-521, shall restrict any
5 patient from obtaining prescription drugs through a prescription drug
6 program or health plan offered by the United States Department of
7 Veterans Affairs. [If a nursing home facility or residential care home
8 patient obtains prescription drugs through a prescription drug
9 program or health plan offered by the United States Department of
10 Veterans Affairs, the nursing home facility or residential care home
11 may require such prescription drugs to be dispensed and administered
12 according to such facility's or home's policies, provided such policies
13 conform to applicable state and federal laws.] At the request of a
14 patient, such facility or home shall dispense and administer

15 prescription drugs obtained through a prescription drug program or
16 health plan operated by the United States Department of Veterans
17 Affairs regardless of the form of the drugs' packaging. Nothing in this
18 section shall prevent such facility or home from dispensing and
19 administering to a patient prescription drugs that are obtained from
20 sources other than a prescription drug program or health plan
21 operated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs when
22 the patient requires such drugs before the drugs can be obtained from
23 such drug program or health plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	19a-521c
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VA *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill removes the requirement that certain drugs be dispensed according to a facility's policies, which is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 522*****AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ADMINISTERED BY NURSING HOMES TO VETERANS.*****SUMMARY:**

By law, nursing home facilities may not restrict patient access to prescription drugs patients obtain through a U. S. Department of Veterans' Affairs prescription drug program or health plan. This bill eliminates the authority of these facilities to require that drugs received through such a plan or program be dispensed or administered according to the facility's policies that comply with applicable state and federal laws.

By law, a "nursing home facility" means any nursing home or residential care home, rest home with nursing supervision, or chronic or convalescent nursing home (CGS § 19a-521).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/05/2015)