

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-706

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING EPINEPHRINE AUTO INJECTORS.

Vote Date: 3/8/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/4/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To make changes regarding the administration of epinephrine auto injectors. If a person has received specified training and acts with reasonable care, the bill allows them to administer epinephrine auto injectors (EpiPen) to someone experiencing an allergic reaction. The bill also grants these individuals civil and criminal liability immunity if they act with reasonable care.

Additionally, the bill allows prescribing practitioners to issue standing order prescriptions for EpiPens to individuals who do not necessarily need them, and it allows pharmacists to dispense them. As with individuals, it grants civil and criminal liability immunity to the prescribing party.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH):

DPH does not support SB 706. While the intentions of the bill are positive, it would result in unintended consequences. The language of the bill reflects recent legislation regarding naloxone. The administration of naloxone has been proven to be successful in reversing the effects of opioid overdose without significant side effects, whereas the administration of an EpiPen can have severe side effects. After receiving an EpiPen injection, a person may go into respiratory or cardiac arrest. A consequence of the bill may be bypassing the use of the EMS/911 system as individuals may go to a pharmacy in such instances rather than calling emergency services. While a pharmacist may dispense the EpiPen, pharmacists or individuals with limited training are not equipped or prepared to deal with complications.

Additionally, individuals who suffer anaphylactic reactions such as respiratory or cardiac arrest require immediate medical follow up.

DPH also expresses concerns with subsection (b) of the bill which would require DPH to approve processes for first aid offered by any organization in Connecticut. There are many such educational programs in Connecticut. The Department cannot complete this requirement within existing resources.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Daniela Giordano, Connecticut Association of School Based Health Centers (CASBHC):

CASBHC supports SB 706 because access to EpiPens is critical to support the health of children and address life threatening reactions to food allergies.

Kate Kulesher, Director, State Government Affairs, US Public Affairs:

Ms. Kulesher supports the intent of the bill, however, she requests that the bill be amended to include more cost efficient and effective products. The strict definition of EpiPens in the current bill does not allow for new products that may become available and may be more efficient and cost effective. Her amendment request reads as follows:

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2019) (a) As used in this section and sections 4 to 5, inclusive, of this act, "epinephrine cartridge injector" means an automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment used to deliver epinephrine in a standard dose for emergency first aid response to allergic reactions or other single use epinephrine delivery system approved by the Federal Drug Administration for public use."

Tricia Donovan, Advisory Council Member, Parlee Center for Science and the Common Good:

Ms. Donovan supports the intent of the bill, however, she expresses serious concerns for potential unintended consequences. Currently EpiPens are in short supply. Allowing individuals who do not suffer from allergies to purchase them will negatively impact the availability for those at risk. The cost of a two pack EpiPen is \$685. SB 706 may increase demand, therefore unintentionally increasing their already astronomic cost. Ms. Donovan believes that we must prioritize the prescribing and dispensing of EpiPens for those who are at risk over those who are not. She also encourages entity stock of EpiPens, entities such as churches, airports, government offices, universities, and others, over individual stock.

Additional Sources of Support include:

Lauren Slater Gibbons, Wilton, CT
Karen Ruszkowski, Woodbridge, CT
Tracy Palmer, Fairfield, CT
Sarah Muratore, Milford, CT
Erin Spaulding, Branford, CT

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted.

Reported by: Valentina Mehmeti

Date: 3/12/19