

# Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5119

AN ACT PERMITTING PHARMACISTS TO ADMINISTER THE INFLUENZA

**Title:** VACCINE TO CHILDREN TWELVE YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER.

**Vote Date:** 3/11/2022

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/7/2022

**File No.:** 99

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

The Public Health Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill allows pharmacists to administer any federally approved flu vaccine to minors 12 years and older. Current federal law allows pharmacists to administer certain vaccines to minors. The bill would increase the number of providers available to administer vaccines during periods of a shortage of licensed personnel or extreme demand.

The substitute language allows pharmacists to administer any federally approved vaccine to adults and flu vaccines to minors aged 12-17 by July 1, 2022.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

### **Manisha Juthani, Commissioner, Department of Public Health (DPH):**

Adding pharmacists to the pool of providers administering the flu vaccines would increase access for this service, given the number of pharmacies and their expanded hours. Given that adolescents may not be seeing primary care doctors and pediatricians have tight windows of opportunity for vaccine administration, adding pharmacists will reduce that burden.

### **Michelle Seagull, Commissioner, Department of Consumer Protection (DCP):**

The Commissioner noted that the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) had authorized Pharmacists to administer federally approved vaccines to minors aged 12-17 under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act, and that DCP and DPH have

provided guidance from HHS regarding this act. DCP believes the bill language should be expanded to allow administration of any federally approved vaccines.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Carrie Rand-Anastasiades, Executive Director, CT Association of Pharmacies**

Pharmacies are in every neighborhood throughout the State and provide quality health care. People will have greater accessibility because of additional locations and increased hours of operation. Pharmacists have administered significant numbers of COVID vaccines during the pandemic and have demonstrated proficiency and safety.

**Nathan Tinker, PhD., CEO, CT Pharmacists Association**

Governor Lamont issued Executive Order 9Q allowing pharmacists to administer COVID and flu vaccines, and other federally approved vaccines to individuals ages 10 and up. The Association would like the state to align with the federal government on age requirements (3-18 years) to codify the practice when the pandemic or the PREP Act expire.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS):**

Patients, particularly pediatric patients, are best served when health services are performed in pediatric offices and not outside the medical facility. CSMS has concerns regarding adverse reactions and the need to be prepared for that possibility.

**Reported by: David Rackliffe**

**Date: March 23, 2022**