

HOUSE BILL NO. 1952

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health

on February 16, 2023)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Hodges)

A BILL to direct the Board of Pharmacy to promulgate regulations related to pharmacy outsourcing and to convene a work group to review issues related to prescription processing delays; report.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. That the Board of Pharmacy (the Board) shall promulgate regulations authorizing a pharmacy to outsource to a central fill pharmacy the performance of all tasks associated with dispensing a prescription drug, including final verification for accuracy by a pharmacist, and alternate delivery to the pharmacy that received the prescription. The regulations shall include an expanded pharmacist-to-pharmacy technician ratio for a central fill pharmacy performing duties exclusive to a central fill pharmacy that does not dispense drugs to patients in person and incorporates sufficient technology to limit distractions to pharmacy personnel. Unless prohibited under federal law, the transfer of the prescription shall not be required if the pharmacies share a common electronic file or have technology that allows sufficient information necessary for dispensing the prescription. The regulations shall include notification to the public of the service and verification of accuracy by a pharmacist licensed in the Commonwealth or pharmacist licensed in another state practicing at a central fill pharmacy holding registration as a nonresident pharmacy. The Board shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this section to be effective within 280 days of its enactment.

§ 2. The Board of Pharmacy shall convene a work group to review issues related to prescription processing delays affecting the health, safety, and welfare of patients. The work group shall consider (i) causes of persistent prescription backlogs; (ii) standards for timely processing of prescriptions; (iii) barriers to implementing staffing, workflow, technology, and patient communications strategies to address prescription backlogs; and (iv) the need for any guidance, regulation, or statutory changes to address issues

27 related to prescription processing delays. In forming the work group, the Board shall include
28 representatives from independent and chain pharmacies, pharmacist professional organizations, patient
29 advocates, and other relevant stakeholders to provide input on development of regulations. The Board
30 shall report any recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Health, Welfare, and
31 Institutions and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by October 15, 2023.

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