



# SENATE BILL 575: Pharmacists Improve Public Health Needs.

2021-2022 General Assembly

---

<b>Committee:</b> Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b> May 6, 2021
<b>Introduced by:</b> Sens. Burgin, Krawiec, Perry	<b>Prepared by:</b> Jason Moran-Bates
<b>Analysis of:</b> Second Edition	Staff Attorney

---

**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 575 would make changes to the pharmacy statutes to allow immunizing pharmacists and clinical pharmacist practitioners greater authority to prescribe and dispense medications.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Under current law, immunizing pharmacists can administer certain preventative vaccines, and clinical pharmacist practitioners can implement drug therapy for a patient after the patient has been diagnosed by a physician who has selected the appropriate drug.

## **BILL ANALYSIS:**

Section 1.(a) of the bill would allow immunizing pharmacists to administer vaccinations approved by the Food and Drug Administration in accordance with protocols established by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. It would also allow immunizing pharmacists to prescribe and dispense all of the following:

- Tobacco cessation medications.
- Orally-administered hormonal contraceptives, provided the patient first completes the appropriate assessment.
- Prenatal vitamins.
- HIV post-exposure prophylaxis medications.

Immunizing pharmacists would have to maintain appropriate records, furnish those records to the patient and the patient's primary care physician, and comply with rules established by the North Carolina Medical Board and the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy.

Section 1.(b) of the bill would permit clinical pharmacist practitioners to prescribe and dispense the same list of drugs described above for immunizing pharmacists. The clinical pharmacist practitioners would have to comply with rules established by the North Carolina Medical Board and the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy.

Section 2 of the bill would require the North Carolina Medical Board and the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy to establish rules for certification processes for immunizing pharmacists and clinical pharmacist practitioners to administer the medications allowed under this act.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Section 1 of the bill would be effective October 1, 2022, and apply to immunizing pharmacists and clinical pharmacist practitioners on or after that date. Section 2 would be effective October 1, 2021. The remainder of the bill would be effective when it becomes law.

Jeffrey Hudson  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578