ASSEMBLY, No. 5539

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman ROY FREIMAN
District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Permits pharmacists to administer certain long-acting injectable drugs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

AN ACT concerning pharmacists and long-acting injectable drugs, and amending P.L.2003, c.280.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. Section 24 of P.L.2003, c.280 (C.45:14-63) is amended to read as follows:

24. a. No pharmacist shall administer a prescription medication directly to a patient without appropriate education and training, as determined by the board in accordance with the requirements set forth in the rules jointly promulgated by the board and the State Board of Medical Examiners. Such medication shall only be for the treatment of a disease for which a nationally certified program is in effect, or as determined by the board, and only if utilized for the treatment of that disease for which the medication is prescribed or indicated or for which the collaborative drug therapy management permits.

b. (1) Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, a pharmacist, pharmacy intern, pharmacy extern, or pharmacy technician may administer drugs to a patient 18 years of age or older, provided the pharmacist, pharmacy intern, pharmacy extern, or pharmacy technician is appropriately educated and qualified, as determined by the board in accordance with the requirements set forth in the rules jointly promulgated by the board and the State Board of Medical Examiners, and provided the drugs are administered under any one of the following conditions:

(a) pursuant to a prescription by an authorized prescriber for a vaccine and related medical emergency medications;

(b) in immunization programs implemented pursuant to an authorized prescriber's standing order for the vaccine and related medical emergency medications; or

(c) in immunization programs and programs sponsored by governmental agencies that are not patient specific, provided, however, that the authority to administer drugs pursuant to this subparagraph applies only to the medication authorized for administration under the program and related medical emergency medications.

(2) In addition to the authority provided under paragraph (1) of this subsection, an appropriately educated and qualified pharmacist, pharmacy intern, pharmacy extern, or pharmacy technician may administer an influenza vaccine, a COVID-19 vaccine, or both, to a patient who is five years of age or older. For a patient who is under 18 years of age, a pharmacist, pharmacy intern, pharmacy extern, or

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined <u>thus</u> is new matter.

pharmacy technician shall not administer a vaccine except with the permission of the patient's parent or legal guardian.

(3) In addition to the authority provided under paragraph (1) of this subsection, an appropriately educated and qualified pharmacy intern, pharmacy extern, or pharmacy technician, as defined by regulation of the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy, may administer immunizations, as provided in this subsection, to patients by injection or by other delivery method, provided that the pharmacy intern, pharmacy extern, or pharmacy technician is acting under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist who is pre-approved by the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy to administer vaccines and related emergency medications, and who is in compliance with the rules jointly promulgated by the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy and the State Board of Medical Examiners.

c. All doses of a vaccine administered to a patient by a pharmacist, pharmacy intern, pharmacy extern, or pharmacy technician pursuant to this subsection shall be reported to the New Jersey Immunization Information System established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2004, c.138 (C.26:4-134) as required pursuant to N.J.A.C.8:57-3.16, for inclusion in the patient's registry.

d. (1) Notwithstanding any law, order, rule, or regulation to the contrary, and pursuant to a prescription issued by an authorized prescriber for a long-acting injectable drug, a pharmacist may administer the long-acting injectable drug to the patient, provided that the pharmacist is appropriately educated and qualified to administer the drug, as determined by the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy, and in accordance with requirements set forth in rules jointly promulgated by the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy and the State Board of Medical Examiners.

(2) As used in subsection, “long-acting injectable drug” means a medication approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration that is injected into a patient to treat or manage symptoms of a psychiatric condition or disorder, for up to 24 weeks with a single dose.

(cf: P.L.2025, c.17, s.1)

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill permits pharmacists to administer certain long-acting injectable drugs.

The bill provides that, pursuant to a prescription issued by an authorized prescriber for a long-acting injectable drug, a pharmacist may administer the long-acting injectable drug to the patient, provided that the pharmacist is appropriately educated and qualified

to administer the drug, as determined by the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy, and in accordance with requirements set forth in rules jointly promulgated by the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy and the State Board of Medical Examiners.

The bill defines "long-acting injectable drug" to mean a medication approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration that is injected into a patient to treat or manage symptoms of a psychiatric condition or disorder, for up to 24 weeks with a single dose.