



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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Sub. S.B. 79

130th General Assembly
(LSC 130 0915-1)

Sen. Kearney

BILL SUMMARY

- Authorizes a pharmacist to administer an immunization included on the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended immunization schedules.
- Authorizes a pharmacy intern working under direct supervision to administer the same immunizations as a pharmacist.
- Lowers to seven the minimum age of a person to whom a pharmacist or pharmacy intern may administer an immunization.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Permitted immunizations

The bill permits pharmacists and pharmacy interns to administer immunizations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).¹ The CDC publishes schedules that include recommendations for certain immunizations, the ages at which they should be administered, and when immunizations should not be given because of medical conditions.²

Currently, pharmacy interns may administer only influenza immunizations, while pharmacists may administer immunizations for influenza, pneumonia, tetanus, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, meningitis, diphtheria, and pertussis, as well as any other

¹ R.C. 4729.41(A)(1).

² CDC. *Immunization Schedules* (last visited October 10, 2013), available at <<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/adult.html>>.

immunization approved by rule of the State Board of Pharmacy. Under law unchanged by the bill, the Board may adopt rules, in consultation with the State Medical Board, to permit administration of any immunization, not just those within the CDC's recommended immunization schedules.³ At present, the zoster vaccine, which is for shingles, is the only immunization that has been approved by rule.⁴

Immunization updating procedure

The bill permits the State Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules that change the immunizations authorized by the bill on its effective date to reflect changes in the recommendations of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.⁵ The bill does not require the Board to consult with the State Medical Board before adopting the changes.

Minimum age

The bill lowers the ages of the persons to whom a pharmacist or pharmacy intern may administer an immunization. Under existing law, a pharmacist may administer an influenza immunization to a person age 14 or older; for every other immunization, including an influenza immunization administered by a pharmacy intern, the patient must be 18 or older. The bill permits a pharmacist or pharmacy intern to administer immunizations to persons starting with age seven.⁶ Corresponding provisions of current law are adjusted to reflect the lower age, still requiring a pharmacist or pharmacy intern to obtain permission from a minor's parent or guardian.⁷

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-13-13

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³ R.C. 4729.41(A) and (E).

⁴ Ohio Administrative Code 4729-5-38; CDC. *Shingles Vaccination: What You Need to Know* (last visited October 15, 2013), available at <<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/shingles/vacc-need-know.htm>>.

⁵ R.C. 4729.41(F).

⁶ R.C. 4729.41(A)(1).

⁷ R.C. 4729.41(C)(3).

