

HCS SB 864 -- DISPENSING EMERGENCY MEDICATION

SPONSOR: Sater (Frederick)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Social Services by a vote of 10 to 0.

The bill requires that only a licensed pharmacist can make the determination to dispense an emergency supply of medication without the authorization from the prescriber.

The bill permits a pharmacist to dispense varying quantities of maintenance medication per fill up to the total number of dosage units as authorized by the prescriber, unless the prescriber has specified that dispensing a prescription for maintenance medication in an initial amount is medically necessary. When the dispensing of the maintenance medication is based on refills then the pharmacist must dispense no more than a 90 day supply and the patient must have already been prescribed the medication for 3 months.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that when this legislation was initially passed it did not specify that a pharmacy technician can make a determination regarding dispensing an emergency supply of medication. This bill specifies that such a determination can only be made by a licensed pharmacist.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Sater and Cerner Corporation.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.