

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Kyle Baker 271-2609

SB 65, relative to vaccines administered by pharmacists.

Hearing Date: March 21, 2017

Time Opened: 1:00 p.m.

Time Closed: 1:30 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Bradley, Avar, Gray, Fuller Clark and Hennessey

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill adds certain vaccines to the law which allows licensed pharmacists to administer vaccines.

Sponsors:

Sen. Giuda

Sen. Bradley

Sen. Soucy

Rep. D. Sullivan

Who supports the bill: Rep. Dan Sullivan; Darryl Perry; Liberty Lobby; Krista Morris, DHHS; Sen. Bob Giuda; Robert Stout, Board of Pharmacy; Tom Prasol, Pfizer; Stuart Trachy, NH Chain Drug Stores; Fran Wendelboe, NHIPA; Jodi Grimbilas, CVS Health; Beth Sargent, NH Pharmacists Association, NH Society of Health System Pharmacists

Who opposes the bill: Laura Condon

Who is neutral on the bill: None

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Giuda – Senate District 2

- This bill increases access for adults to have vaccines administered at a pharmacy.
- Pharmacists are already allowed to give vaccines but this list is limited.
- NH is 1 of 4 states that does not allow pharmacies to administer all of the vaccines recommended by the CDC.
- Would at Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, TDAP, MMR, and meningococcal meningitis.
- This would reduce costs and copays.
- Pharmacists are required to hold a doctorate to perform their duties and the

board of Pharmacy has specific requirements to administer vaccines.

Robert Stout – Board of Pharmacy

- The board fully supports this bill.
- In pharmacies, vaccines are treated just like any other prescription. All vaccines are kept in patients records and the information is sent to the primary care provider.

Sen. Fuller Clark – Would there be any harm to moving up the effective date?

Stout – There would be no issues. The board of pharmacy already has requirements for the administration of vaccines.

Sen. Avard – There was a case submitted about a man who died after getting a flu shot. Can you speak to that?

Stout – There are risk to all medications and vaccines. There are always going to be cases of severe reactions and it is hard to tell why the adverse reaction happened.

Sen. Avard – Are disclosures of risk made at the time a pharmacist is administering the vaccines?

Stout – There has always been ongoing discussions about the careful balance needed on disclosure of information. The fear is always that if you disclose too much a person might not get the vaccines. We always work to make sure that the patient is well informed of all the risks of the vaccine.

Stuart Trachy – NH Chain Drug Stores

- Pharmacists have an incredible amount of education and are required to not only hold a doctorate degree to practice; they have to have an additional certification in order to give vaccines.
- The vaccine program implemented across the country has been incredibly successful and is a convenient and cost effective approach to increasing access to vaccines.
- Many primary care offices do not often carry all of these vaccines because it is often cost prohibitive for small offices to buy them.

Fran Wendelboe – NH Independent Pharmacists Association

- Submitted information on what states are currently allowing pharmacists to administer.
- NH is one of the last states that do not allow this.
- Also important to remember that if there was an outbreak of a particular disease, primary providers would not be able to see patients fast enough to vaccinate everyone that wanted to be. Having pharmacists able to vaccinate would help increase access to those that want vaccines.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition:

Laura Condon – National Vaccine information Center

- Opposed to this bill
- Current law already gives pharmacists too much power
- As we increase access to vaccines, we have seen an increase in adverse effects from vaccines.
- We cannot increase access to vaccines until we are sure they are safe.
- 134 people have had adverse reactions to vaccines since the law change in 2011 that allowed pharmacists to administer more vaccines.
- Pharmacists do not see people as patients they see them as customers which is not the setting that people should be vaccinated in.
- Submitted written testimony and examples to go with her testimony.

Sen. Fuller Clark – We are 1 of only 4 states that do not already have this law. Do you have any information about negative outcomes from these states?

Condon – No specific information but would caution New Hampshire from doing something just because others have.

Neutral Information Presented: None

Future Action: Ought to Pass

KRB

Date Hearing Report completed: March 24, 2017