STATE OF NEW YORK

8716

IN SENATE

January 7, 2026

Introduced by Sen. HINCHEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the prescribing and administration of certain immunizations by a physician, pharmacist or a certified nurse practitioner

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 7 of section 6527 of the education law, as amended by chapter 555 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

7. A licensed physician may prescribe and order a patient specific order or non-patient specific regimen to a licensed pharmacist, pursuant to regulations promulgated by the commissioner, and consistent with the public health law, for: (a) administering immunizations to prevent influenza **and COVID-19** to patients two years of age or older; and (b) administering immunizations to prevent pneumococcal, acute herpes zoster, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, human papillomavirus, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, [~~COVID-19,~~] meningococcal, tetanus, diphtheria or pertussis disease and medications required for emergency treatment of anaphylaxis to patients eighteen years of age or older; and (c) administering other immunizations recommended by the advisory committee on immunization practices of the centers for disease control and prevention for patients eighteen years of age or older if the commissioner of health in consultation with the commissioner determines that an immunization: (i) (A) may be safely administered by a licensed pharmacist within their lawful scope of practice; and (B) is needed to prevent the transmission of a reportable communicable disease that is prevalent in New York state; or (ii) is a recommended immunization for such patients who: (A) meet age requirements, (B) lack documentation of such immunization, (C) lack evidence of past infection, or (D) have an additional risk factor or another indication as recommended by the advisory committee on immunization practices of the centers for disease control and prevention. Nothing in this subdivision shall authorize unlicensed persons to administer immunizations, vaccines or other drugs.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ***italics*** (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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§ 2. Section 6801 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 10 to read as follows:

10. A licensed pharmacist within their lawful scope of practice may prescribe and order a patient specific order for medications to prevent COVID-19 to patients two years of age or older.

§ 3. Subparagraph 2 of paragraph a of subdivision 22 of section 6802 of the education law, as amended by chapter 802 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

(2) the direct application of an immunizing agent to children between the ages of two and eighteen years of age, whether by injection, ingestion, inhalation or any other means, pursuant to a patient specific order or non-patient specific regimen prescribed or ordered by a physician or certified nurse practitioner, for immunization to prevent influenza **and COVID-19** and medications required for emergency treatment of anaphylaxis resulting from such immunization. If the commissioner of health determines that there is an outbreak of influenza **or COVID-19**, or that there is the imminent threat of an outbreak of influenza **or COVID-19**, then the commissioner of health may issue a non-patient specific regimen applicable statewide.

§ 4. Subdivision 7 of section 6909 of the education law, as amended by chapter 555 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

7. A certified nurse practitioner may prescribe and order a patient specific order or non-patient specific regimen to a licensed pharmacist, pursuant to regulations promulgated by the commissioner, and consistent with the public health law, for: (a) administering immunizations to prevent influenza **and COVID-19** to patients two years of age or older; and (b) administering immunizations to prevent pneumococcal, acute herpes zoster, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, human papillomavirus, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, [~~**COVID-19,**~~] meningococcal, tetanus, diphtheria or pertussis disease and medications required for emergency treatment of anaphylaxis to patients eighteen years of age or older; and (c) administering other immunizations recommended by the advisory committee on immunization practices of the centers for disease control and prevention for patients eighteen years of age or older if the commissioner of health in consultation with the commissioner determines that an immunization: (i) (A) may be safely administered by a licensed pharmacist within their lawful scope of practice; and (B) is needed to prevent the transmission of a reportable communicable disease that is prevalent in New York state; or (ii) is a recommended immunization for such patients who: (A) meet age requirements, (B) lack documentation of such immunization, (C) lack evidence of past infection, or (D) have an additional risk factor or another indication as recommended by the advisory committee on immunization practices of the centers for disease control and prevention. Nothing in this subdivision shall authorize unlicensed persons to administer immunizations, vaccines or other drugs.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately.