



COLORADO PHARMACISTS SOCIETY

HB 19-1242 Pharmacy Technician Regulation

Sponsors: Representatives Dominique Jackson & Sonya Jaquez Lewis

Senators Jack Tate & Faith Winter

Regulatory Landscape:

- Colorado is one of only five states that does not regulate pharmacy technicians.
 - The others are Hawaii, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.
- 45 states and DC require pharmacy technicians to be registered, certified, licensed, or permitted by the state board of pharmacy to practice.

What Would this Bill Do?

- Require pharmacy technicians practicing in Colorado to be certified by DORA
 - Pharmacy technicians would apply for provisional certification with the Colorado State Board of Pharmacy upon hire, and pass a nationally accredited certification exam within 18 months of hire to become certified.
 - Pharmacy technicians and DORA would have ample lead time to process provisional certification of existing technicians in CO.
 - Pharmacy technicians would have representation on the Board of Pharmacy.
 - Pharmacies or pharmacists can apply for a hardship exemption from the Board if they are unable to meet the requirements for certification.

Consumer and Other Research:

- Consumers expect that the pharmacies they patronize should employ technicians who possess the qualifications to keep them safe. Pharmacies should proudly inform their patients of all efforts they undertake to provide the highest level of safe and effective patient care including pharmacy personnel credentials.

Consumers value certification and three-quarters of consumers say they would seek out a pharmacy where the pharmacy technicians are certified. Education, training, active certification, and national accreditation of certification for pharmacy technicians are all deemed important by the public. 88% of the public say it is very important for people who compound or mix medications to be specially trained and certified.

Public Safety and Medication Diversion:

- When medication diversion does occur in a pharmacy, 75% of the time it is due to a pharmacy technician¹. That information is not currently tracked, meaning a pharmacy technician could divert drugs at a pharmacy, be fired, then hired at another pharmacy with no way to look that information up through the Colorado Board of Pharmacy.
- Pharmacists cannot do their jobs without qualified and committed pharmacy technicians.
- As pharmacists' roles expand in direct patient care, they must be confident in technicians' knowledge and skills. A recent study shows that pharmacists perceive pharmacy technician certification as an essential component in reducing medication errors, ensuring patient safety, and increasing positive health outcomes.
- DORA supported certification as the most appropriate level of regulation for pharmacy technicians in Colorado (October 2018). This was in part due to the educational component helping ensure patient safety.

¹ Draime JA, Anderson DC, Anderson TS. Description and comparison of medication diversion in pharmacies by pharmacists, interns, and pharmacy technicians. *JAPhA* 2018;58:275-280.
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Contacts:

Katie Wolf
Wolf Public Affairs
(720)365-3990

Emily Zadvorny, PharmD, BCPS
Executive Director, Colorado Pharmacists Society
(303)818-9045