



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 239

S.P. 105

In Senate, January 21, 2025

An Act to Allow Retail Pharmacies to Operate Remote Dispensing Sites in Rural Areas

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 16, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.

Cosponsored by Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, SALISBURY of Westbrook.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §13722, sub-§1, ¶B-3** is enacted to read:

3 B-3. Establish the terms and conditions for the operation and licensing of a remote
4 dispensing site by a retail pharmacy by rule, including, at a minimum:

5 (1) Demonstration that the geographic area in which the remote dispensing site is
6 to be located lacks adequate access to retail pharmacy services for the general
7 public;

8 (2) Requirements and specifications for the use of a remote dispensing site that
9 allows for the storage, preparation, packaging, labeling and dispensing of
10 prescription drugs and for telehealth services for related drug regimen review and
11 patient counseling services by a licensed pharmacist;

12 (3) Requirements for minimum staffing by pharmacy technicians;

13 (4) Requirements for compliance with all federal and state laws regulating the
14 practice of pharmacy;

15 (5) Record-keeping requirements; and

16 (6) Procedures for security and surveillance.

17 The operation of a remote dispensing site by a retail pharmacy is not permitted until
18 rules are adopted by the board pursuant to this paragraph. Rules adopted pursuant to
19 this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter
20 2-A;

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill directs the Maine Board of Pharmacy to establish the terms and conditions for
23 the operation and licensing of a remote dispensing site by a retail pharmacy by rule. The
24 bill requires that the rules establish terms and conditions that, at a minimum, include a
25 demonstration that the geographic area in which the remote dispensing site is to be located
26 lacks adequate access to retail pharmacy services for the general public; requirements for
27 the use of a remote dispensing site that allows for storage, preparation, packaging, labeling
28 and dispensing of prescription drugs and remote oversight by a licensed pharmacist; and
29 requirements for minimum staffing, compliance with federal and state pharmacy laws,
30 record keeping and security.

31 The bill provides that a remote dispensing site may not be operated until rules are
32 adopted by the board.