



Janet T. Mills
Governor

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF PHARMACY
35 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0035

Anne L. Head, Esq.
Commissioner

Geraldine L. Betts
Administrator

March 31, 2021

Senator Heather Sanborn, Chair
Representative Denise Tepler, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

RE: L.D. 998, *An Act To Amend the Continuing Education Requirement for Pharmacists*

Dear Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation is neither for nor against L.D. 998, *An Act To Amend the Continuing Education Requirement for Pharmacists*. Current law requires all pharmacists to complete 15 hours of board-approved continuing professional education. At least two (2) of the total fifteen (15) hours must consist of board-approved courses on drug administration – regardless of whether the pharmacist has obtained the required certification to administer drugs and vaccines pursuant to Title 32, subchapter 13 (“ADV certification”).

This bill clarifies that *only* a pharmacist with ADV certification is required to complete 2 hours of continuing professional education on drug administration. While all pharmacists still must comply with the 15 hours of continuing education, L.D. 998 provides that those pharmacists without ADV certification will be permitted to refocus those 2 hours to a more relevant practice area for that pharmacist.

Currently, of the 2,313 pharmacists licensed by the Board of Pharmacy, 1,332 have the ADV certification.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this information. We would be happy to answer questions at the work session.

Sincerely,

Geraldine L. Betts, Board Administrator

Licensing (207)624-8651
Main Receptionist (207)624-8603
TTY users call Maine relay 711


PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
www.maine.gov/professionallicensing

Geraldine.L.Betts@maine.gov
Direct Line: (207)624-8625
Fax: (207)624-8666

OFFICE LOCATION: GARDINER ANNEX
76 NORTHERN AVENUE, GARDINER, MAINE