

Senate Bill 126

By: Senators Hufstetler of the 52nd and Orrock of the 36th

AS PASSED

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 26 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 pharmacists and pharmacies, so as to authorize certain health care practitioners to prescribe
3 auto-injectable epinephrine to an authorized entity for emergency purposes; to authorize
4 licensed health practitioners to prescribe levalbuterol sulfate for schools; to authorize
5 pharmacists to fill such prescriptions; to amend Chapter 1 of Title 31 of the Official Code of
6 Georgia Annotated, relating to health generally, so as to provide for authorized entities to
7 acquire and stock a supply of auto-injectable epinephrine; to authorize certain individuals to
8 administer auto-injectable epinephrine under certain circumstances; to provide for immunity;
9 to provide for reports; to amend Part 3 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official
10 Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to student health in elementary and secondary
11 education, so as to authorize public and private schools to stock a supply of levalbuterol
12 sulfate; to provide for definitions; to provide for requirements and reporting; to provide for
13 arrangements with manufacturers; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for related
14 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

15 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

16 **SECTION 1.**

17 Chapter 4 of Title 26 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to pharmacists and
18 pharmacies, is amended by revising Code Section 26-4-116.1, relating to licensed health
19 practitioners authorized to prescribe auto-injectable epinephrine for schools and pharmacists
20 authorized to fill prescriptions, as follows:

21 "26-4-116.1.

22 (a) A physician licensed to practice medicine in this state, an advanced practice registered
23 nurse acting pursuant to the authority of Code Section 43-34-25, and a physician assistant
24 acting pursuant to the authority of subsection (e.1) of Code Section 43-34-103 may
25 prescribe auto-injectable epinephrine in the name of a public or private school for use in

accordance with Code Section 20-2-776.2 and in accordance with protocol specified by such physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant.

~~(b) A pharmacist may dispense auto-injectable epinephrine pursuant to a prescription issued in accordance with subsection (a) of this Code section~~ A physician licensed to practice medicine in this state, an advanced practice registered nurse acting pursuant to the authority of Code Section 43-34-25, and a physician assistant acting pursuant to the authority of subsection (e.1) of Code Section 43-34-103 may prescribe auto-injectable epinephrine in the name of an authorized entity in accordance with Code Section 31-1-14.
~~(c) A pharmacist may dispense auto-injectable epinephrine pursuant to a prescription issued in accordance with subsection (a) or (b) of this Code section."~~

SECTION 1A.

Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"26-4-116.3.

(a) A physician licensed to practice medicine in this state, an advanced practice registered nurse acting pursuant to the authority of Code Section 43-34-25, and a physician assistant acting pursuant to the authority of subsection (e.1) of Code Section 43-34-103 may prescribe levalbuterol sulfate or albuterol sulfate in the name of a public or private school for use in accordance with Code Section 20-2-776.3.

(b) A pharmacist may dispense levalbuterol sulfate or albuterol sulfate pursuant to a prescription issued in accordance with subsection (a) of this Code section."

SECTION 2.

Chapter 1 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health generally, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"31-1-14.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

(1) 'Authorized entity' means any entity or organization, other than a school subject to Code Section 20-2-776.2, in connection with or at which allergens capable of causing anaphylaxis may be present, as identified by the department. The department shall, through rule or other guidance, identify the types of entities and organizations that are considered authorized entities no later than January 1, 2016, and shall review and update such rule or guidance at least annually thereafter. For purposes of illustration only, such entities may include, but are not limited to, restaurants, recreation camps, youth sports leagues, theme parks and resorts, and sports arenas.

(2) 'Auto-injectable epinephrine' means a single-use device used for the automatic injection of a premeasured dose of epinephrine into the human body.

(3) 'Health care practitioner' means a physician licensed to practice medicine in this state, an advanced practice registered nurse acting pursuant to the authority of Code Section 43-34-25, and a physician assistant acting pursuant to the authority of subsection (e.1) of Code Section 43-34-103.

(b) An authorized entity may acquire and stock a supply of auto-injectable epinephrine pursuant to a prescription issued in accordance with Code Section 26-4-116.1. Such auto-injectable epinephrine shall be stored in a location readily accessible in an emergency and in accordance with the auto-injectable epinephrine's instructions for use and any additional requirements that may be established by the department. An authorized entity shall designate employees or agents who have completed the training required by subsection (d) of this Code section to be responsible for the storage, maintenance, control, and general oversight of auto-injectable epinephrine acquired by the authorized entity.

(c) An employee or agent of an authorized entity, or any other individual, who has completed the training required by subsection (d) of this Code section may use auto-injectable epinephrine prescribed pursuant to Code Section 26-4-116.1 to:

(1) Provide auto-injectable epinephrine to any individual who the employee, agent, or other individual believes in good faith is experiencing anaphylaxis, or to the parent, guardian, or caregiver of such individual, for immediate administration, regardless of whether the individual has a prescription for auto-injectable epinephrine or has previously been diagnosed with an allergy; and

(2) Administer auto-injectable epinephrine to any individual who the employee, agent, or other individual believes in good faith is experiencing anaphylaxis, regardless of whether the individual has a prescription for auto-injectable epinephrine or has previously been diagnosed with an allergy.

(d) An employee, agent, or other individual described in subsection (b) or (c) of this Code section shall complete an anaphylaxis training program and repeat such training at least every two years following completion of the initial anaphylaxis training program. Such training shall be conducted by a nationally recognized organization experienced in training laypersons in emergency health treatment or an entity or individual approved by the department. Training may be conducted online or in person and, at a minimum, shall cover:

(1) How to recognize signs and symptoms of severe allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis;

(2) Standards and procedures for the storage and administration of auto-injectable epinephrine; and

(3) Emergency follow-up procedures.

(e) An authorized entity that possesses and makes available auto-injectable epinephrine and its employees, agents, and other individuals; a health care practitioner that prescribes or dispenses auto-injectable epinephrine to an authorized entity; a pharmacist or health care practitioner that dispenses auto-injectable epinephrine to an authorized entity; and an individual or entity that conducts the training described in subsection (d) of this Code section shall not be liable for any injuries or related damages that result from any act or omission taken pursuant to this Code section; provided, however, that this immunity does not apply to acts or omissions constituting willful or wanton misconduct. The administration of auto-injectable epinephrine in accordance with this Code section is not the practice of medicine or any other profession that otherwise requires licensure. This Code section does not eliminate, limit, or reduce any other immunity or defense that may be available under state law, including that provided under Code Section 51-1-29. An entity located in this state shall not be liable for any injuries or related damages that result from the provision or administration of auto-injectable epinephrine outside of this state if the entity:

(1) Would not have been liable for such injuries or related damages had the provision or administration occurred within this state; or

(2) Is not liable for such injuries or related damages under the law of the state in which such provision or administration occurred.

(f) An authorized entity that possesses and makes available auto-injectable epinephrine shall submit to the department, on a form developed by the department, a report including each incident on the authorized entity's premises that involves the administration of auto-injectable epinephrine pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section and any other information deemed relevant by the department. The department shall annually publish a report that summarizes and analyzes all reports submitted to it under this subsection.

(g) The department shall establish requirements regarding the storage, maintenance, control, and oversight of the auto-injectable epinephrine, including but not limited to any temperature limitations and expiration of such auto-injectable epinephrine."

SECTION 2A.

Part 3 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to student health in elementary and secondary education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"20-2-776.3.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

(1) 'Levalbuterol sulfate' means an orally inhaled medication that contains a premeasured single dose of levalbuterol sulfate or albuterol sulfate delivered by a nebulizer or

compressor device or by a pressurized metered dose inhaler used to treat perceived respiratory distress including, but not limited to, wheezing, shortness of breath, and difficulty breathing.

(2) 'Licensed practitioner' means a physician licensed to practice medicine in this state, an advanced practice registered nurse acting pursuant to the authority of Code Section 43-34-25, and a physician assistant acting pursuant to the authority of subsection (e.1) of Code Section 43-34-103.

(b) A public or private school in this state may acquire and stock a supply of levalbuterol sulfate pursuant to a prescription issued in accordance with Code Section 26-4-116.3. A public or private school may designate an employee or agent trained in the possession and administration of levalbuterol sulfate to be responsible for the storage, maintenance, and distribution of the levalbuterol sulfate stocked by the school.

(c) Any school employee or agent of a public or private school who has completed training or received information pursuant to subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-776.4 in recognizing the symptoms of respiratory distress and the correct method of administering the levalbuterol sulfate may:

(1) Provide levalbuterol sulfate to any student such employee or agent believes in good faith is experiencing a perceived respiratory distress for immediate self-administration; or

(2) Administer levalbuterol sulfate to any student such employee or agent believes in good faith is experiencing a perceived respiratory distress, regardless of whether the student has a prescription for levalbuterol sulfate.

(d) A public or private school may enter into arrangements with manufacturers of approved levalbuterol sulfate or third-party suppliers of levalbuterol sulfate to obtain the products free of charge or at fair market or reduced prices.

(e) No later than July 1, 2015, the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Public Health, shall adopt regulations as necessary to implement the provisions of this Code section.

(f)(1) Any school personnel who in good faith administers or chooses not to administer levalbuterol sulfate to a student pursuant to this Code section shall be immune from civil liability for any act or omission to act related to the administration of levalbuterol sulfate, except that such immunity shall not apply to an act of willful or wanton misconduct.

(2) Any licensed practitioner who prescribes levalbuterol sulfate pursuant to Code Section 26-4-116.3 for use by a school in accordance with this Code section shall be immune from civil liability for any act or omission to act related to the administration of such levalbuterol sulfate, except that such immunity shall not apply to an act of willful or wanton misconduct.

20-2-776.4.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term 'levalbuterol sulfate' means an orally inhaled medication that contains a premeasured single dose of levalbuterol sulfate or albuterol sulfate delivered by a nebulizer or compressor device or by a pressurized metered dose inhaler used to treat perceived respiratory distress including, but not limited to, wheezing, shortness of breath, and difficulty breathing.

(b) Each local board of education shall adopt a policy authorizing school personnel to administer levalbuterol sulfate, if available, to a student upon the occurrence of perceived respiratory distress by the student, whether or not such student has a prescription for levalbuterol sulfate.

(c) Each local board of education shall provide information to school personnel on how to recognize the symptoms of respiratory distress and the correct method of administering the levalbuterol sulfate.

(d) Any school personnel who in good faith administers or chooses not to administer levalbuterol sulfate to a student pursuant to this Code section shall be immune from civil liability for any act or omission to act related to the administration of levalbuterol sulfate, except that such immunity shall not apply to an act of willful or wanton misconduct."

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.