Chapter 280

**(House Bill 456)**

An act concerning  **the State Board of Pharmacy –**

**Prescription Labels, Bag Tags, and Medical Guides for Blind, Visually Impaired, and Print Disabled Individuals – Regulations**

**Accessible**

***A note to readers: The Microsoft word version differs from the pdf version because it does not contain line numbers or material that was crossed out and deleted from the final version of the law. We have included a word version to provide greater access to the information. When you see material in all capital letters, it represents what was new when this particular bill was passed.***

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Pharmacy to adopt regulations

necessary to ensure that individuals who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled have appropriate access to prescription labels, bag tags, and medical guides in a certain manner; requiring the Board to give visually impaired individuals an opportunity to provide input regarding the content of the regulations; and generally relating to

accessible prescription labels, bag tags, and medical guides for blind, visually impaired, and print disabled individuals.

BY adding to

Article – Health Occupations Section 12–505.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Health Occupations**

**12-505.1.**

**(a)**​ **The Board shall adopt regulations necessary to ensure that an individual who is blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled has appropriate access to prescription labels, bag tags, and medical guides:**

* 1. **At no additional cost to the individual;**
  2. **In a format option through which the information is fully accessible to the individual; and**
  3. **Within a time frame comparable to the time frame within which the information is provided to an individual who is not visually impaired.**

**(b)**​ **In adopting regulations under subsection (a) of this section, the Board shall give visually impaired individuals an opportunity to provide input regarding the content of the regulations.**

**(c)**​ **The regulations adopted under subsection (a) of this section shall:**

* 1. **Follow the guidelines and recommendations in the “Prescription Drug Labels: Actions Needed to Increase Awareness of Best Practices for Accessible Labels for Individuals Who are Blind or Visually Impaired” report that was issued by the U.S. Government Accountability Office in December 2016; and**
  2. **Include a method for providing notice to customers that accessible prescription labels, bag tags, and medical guides are available, including notice regarding the availability of the prescription labels, bag tags, and medical guides in audio format.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Board of Pharmacy shall adopt the regulations required under § 12–505.1 of the Health Occupations Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, on or before January 1, 2025.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1, 2023, the Maryland Department of Health shall submit to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, a report on the potential process for and costs of implementing enhanced professional dispensing fees for providing accessible labels and compliant packaging to blind, visually impaired, and otherwise print disabled individuals.

SECTION4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take

October 1, 2023.

**Approved by the Governor, May 3, 2023.**