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|  | **The New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists** |
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**Pharmacy Technician Certification and Clarification of Duties**

S5162 (Stavisky)

**Fact Sheet**

April 18th, 2019

**Compelling Need for Legislative Action:**

* NYS is one of a few states in which pharmacy technicians are not recognized in statute. They are regulated by the NYS Education Department (NYSED) as ‘unlicensed persons’. These regulations have not been updated since **1982**. Since then, the NYS BOP provided guidance to guide evolving practice
* 1995: Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) was established to create national standards for pharmacy technician education and certification. NYS has never recognized these standards
* 2018: new interpretation of NYSED regulations disavowed the decades of practice espoused by the NYS BOP guidance, leading to a **crisis**. Pharmacy technicians are threatened with losing their jobs. Pharmacists have been removed from providing clinical services and are now doing technical work

**What this Legislation does:**

* This bill will codify some of the previous guidance from the NYS BOP and bring NYS in line with modern standards and practices, updating oversight for pharmacy technicians for first time since 1982
* Nationally-accredited pharmacy technician certification will be required for new technicians joining hospitals and health-systems, creating training and quality standards for the first time in NYS
  + Grandparenting - if individual has worked at least 5 years as a pharmacy technician (and 18 consecutive months with a single employer) may continue to work, though not compound

**Proposed impact on public health:**

* Increase in medication safety
  + Medication errors harm 15 million patients in US hospitals each year
  + Technician certification associated with higher pharmacy math and compounding skills
* Allowing pharmacists to spend more time on patient care services
  + A survey of over 600 pharmacists in various settings revealed that at least 83% of respondents agreed that working with certified technicians allows them to spend more time on patient care services such as patient education.
* Comparison to other states:
  + Nearly every state – even the other 5 which do not license pharmacy technicians – create guidance and structure for pharmacy technicians to prepare medications under supervision

**Support:**

* New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists (NYSCHP), the Community Pharmacy Association of New York State, Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA), 1199 SEIU (United Healthcare Workers East), Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS)