

SENATE, No. 1014

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Requires retail pharmacies to stock and dispense emergency contraception.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning dispensing certain prescription drugs in
2 pharmacies and supplementing P.L.2003, c.280 (C.45:14-
3 40 et seq.) .

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. Each retail pharmacy in the State shall maintain a stock of
9 over-the-counter emergency contraception, and shall sell or furnish
10 over-the-counter emergency contraception to any person upon
11 request.

12 b. As used in this section:

13 “Over-the-counter emergency contraception” means a
14 contraceptive drug approved by the federal Food and Drug
15 Administration as an over-the-counter drug that, when administered
16 within the medically recommended time following unprotected
17 sexual intercourse, prevents pregnancy.

18 “Retail pharmacy” means any place in the State where drugs are
19 dispensed or patient care services are provided by a licensed
20 pharmacist, but shall not include any pharmacy that limits the
21 provision of pharmaceutical care services to a defined and exclusive
22 group of patients and is not open for dispensing to the general patient
23 population.

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25 2. This act shall take effect on the 30th day after enactment.
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28 STATEMENT

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30 This bill requires retail pharmacies to stock over-the-counter
31 emergency contraception and sell or furnish the emergency
32 contraception to any person upon request.

33 Emergency contraception, also called postcoital contraception, is
34 used to keep a woman from getting pregnant when she has had
35 unprotected vaginal intercourse. "Unprotected" can mean that no
36 method of birth control was used, a birth control method was used
37 but did not work or the woman may have been abused or forced to
38 have sex when she did not want to. Emergency contraception works
39 by stopping the ovaries from releasing eggs that can be fertilized,
40 stopping the egg from being fertilized by the sperm, or stopping a
41 fertilized egg from attaching itself to the wall of the uterus. To be
42 effective, emergency contraception must be taken within a certain
43 time after the occurrence of unprotected vaginal intercourse.
44 Depending on the product, this timeframe is generally three to five
45 days.