

# Senate Health and Human Services Committee

*Sophie Walsh 271-3469*

**HB 1249**, authorizing pharmacists to provide certain medical devices associated with prescribed medication.

**Hearing Date:** April 9, 2026

**Time Opened:** 1:00 p.m.

**Time Closed:** 1:13 p.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Rochefort, Birdsell, Prentiss and Long

**Members of the Committee Absent:** Senator Avard

**Bill Analysis:** This bill amends the definition of the practice of pharmacy under RSA 318 and authorizes pharmacists to prescribe certain prescription devices necessary for the appropriate delivery or administration of a prescribed drug.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Veilleux

Rep. Beauchemin

Rep. S. King

Rep. Kofalt

Rep. Layon

Rep. M. Pearson

Rep. Weber

Rep. Woods

Sen. Watters

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**Who supports the bill:** Rep. Daniel Veilleux, Rep. Daniel Popovici-Muller, Katelyn Comeau (NH Pharmacists Association), Curtis Howland, Adam Thompson, Carly Feins, James Gardner, Pamela Harders, Suzanna Derynioski, Chelsea Zarccone, and Aubrey Freedman.

**Who opposes the bill:** No one.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** No one.

**Summary of testimony presented:**

Representative Daniel Veilleux, Hillsborough – District 34

- Representative Veilleux explained that his son has asthma. He received a nebulizer from his doctor's office as a baby and has an inhaler prescription. A spacer, which is a plastic tube that helps the medication atomize before entering the lungs, is part of that prescription.
- A few months ago, Representative Veilleux's son lost his spacer, and they could not receive a new one from the pharmacy without a prescription. Representative Veilleux was able to have a spacer delivered by Amazon the next day.

- This incident led Representative Veilleux wonder if this rule applied to other devices, such as nebulizers. Since nebulizers are used to address urgent and acute asthma attacks, one would have to go to the emergency room in such a situation when a prescription is needed to get the device.
- Representative Veilleux's research also identified that this is an issue with diabetic supplies and other devices. He emphasized that devices are useless without medication, and in many cases the medication is useless without the device.
- Several states have implemented legislation to automatically prescribe devices when there is a prescription for the medication. This allows individuals to use their existing prescriptions to access devices without a separate prescription.
- Representative Veilleux noted that he worked with a pharmacist on this effort and it is currently based off of Indiana's legislation.
- Senator Prentiss asked if there would be insurance reimbursement if the devices are a covered item.
- Representative Veilleux explained that while he does not think this was an issue in Indiana, his focus is on ensuring availability and accessibility.
- Senator Birdsell confirmed that this is looking at accessibility, not necessarily requiring insurance carriers to reimburse for these devices.
- Representative Veilleux confirmed and explained that while he hopes insurance companies will allow pharmacists to do this, it is not the focus of this legislation.
- Senator Prentiss agreed and said she does not think it should be an issue if the item is already covered. She suggested that Representative Veilleux have a conversation with the Insurance Department.
- Senator Rochefort noted that while over 30 states allow pharmacists to prescribe in some degree, New Hampshire is not one of them. He said he has been in the same situation as a pharmacist.
- Senator Rochefort explained that carriers are not mandated to pay for these things and pharmacists do not have provider status. He emphasized that he thinks the intent is to address accessibility, and Representative Veilleux confirmed.
- Senator Rochefort asked if Representative Veilleux is aware of SB 504, noting that it would cover this intent and other things. Representative Veilleux confirmed he is aware.

Katelyn Comeau, New Hampshire Pharmacists Association

- Ms. Comeau stated that she is speaking in support of the bill.
- Pharmacists have the expertise and knowledge to offer and recommend proper testing supplies and administrative devices. This is clearly within their scope of education and training.

- The current barrier in New Hampshire is the lack of ability for pharmacists to offer these devices to patients. While prescribers refill prescriptions, they can still be lost or run out of supplies. Pharmacists are trained and able to provide these devices at point of sale.
- This bill is a step in the right direction for the profession of pharmacy. It increases access to health care, keeps patients out of emergency rooms and urgent care facilities, and is great for patients.
- Ms. Comeau emphasized that SB 504 accomplishes this bill's intent by modifying the definition of practice of pharmacy.
- Ms. Comeau referenced insurance coverage and explained that she thinks this will offer a cost savings to the consumer in most cases. Pharmacists can currently bill for things such as vaccines provided in the pharmacy, so it should be covered in theory as long as it is covered by the patient's plan.
- Senator Rochefort asked if Ms. Comeau's organization is committed to educating their members on any changes that occur in legislation, and she confirmed. She explained that they have a broad reach of members to contact, in addition to partnering with the Board of Pharmacy on messaging. This is a legislative priority for them, so they will use all available tools to spread awareness.