HB123 ENGROSSED



- 1 HB123
- 2 YMBALNN-2
- 3 By Representatives Underwood, Wilcox
- 4 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
- 5 First Read: 04-Feb-25
- 6 PFD: 03-Feb-25



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5	A BILL
6	TO BE ENTITLED
7	AN ACT
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9	Relating to the Alabama Sunset Law; to continue the
10	existence and functioning of the Alabama State Board of
11	Pharmacy until October 1, 2026, with certain modifications; to
12	amend Sections 34-23-3, 34-23-8, 34-23-12, 34-23-13, 34-23-30,
13	34-23-32.2, 34-23-33, 34-23-34, 34-23-52, 34-23-90, 34-23-91,
14	34-23-92, 34-23-93, and 34-23-131, Code of Alabama 1975; to
15	reconstitute the membership of the board; to revise the
16	compensation of board members and their duties; to provide
17	further for the position of secretary; to revise the board's
18	authority to impose penalties; to provide further for the
19	board's authorization to discipline pharmacists, pharmacies,
20	and certain other entities; to provide further for the general
21	counsel of the board; to require the board to report on the
22	status of board rules; and to make nonsubstantive, technical
23	revisions to update the existing code language to current
24	style.
25	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
26	Section 1. Pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law, the
27	Sunset Committee recommends the continuance of the Alabama
28	State Board of Pharmacy until October 1, 2026, with the



- additional recommendation for statutory change as set out in Section 3.
- 31 Section 2. The existence and functioning of the Alabama
- 32 State Board of Pharmacy, created and functioning pursuant to
- 33 Chapter 23 of Title 34, Code of Alabama 1975, is continued
- until October 1, 2026, and those code sections are expressly
- 35 preserved.
- 36 Section 3. Section 34-23-3, 34-23-8, 34-23-12,
- 37 34-23-13, 34-23-30, 34-23-32.2, 34-23-33, 34-23-34, 34-23-52,
- 38 34-23-90, 34-23-91, 34-23-92, 34-23-93, and 34-23-131, Code of
- 39 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:
- 40 "\$34-23-3
- 41 (a) Each state drug investigator employed by the board
- 42 <u>following the passage of this chapter</u> must furnish
- satisfactory proof to the board that he or she the
- 44 investigator is a person an individual of good moral character
- 45 and that in the judgment of the members of the board, he or
- 46 she has sufficient knowledge of the laws pertaining to the
- 47 practice of pharmacy and law enforcement to enable him or her
- 48 to carry out his or her the duties as an investigator
- 49 consistent with this chapter. Each—A state drug investigator
- 50 employed by the board shall must serve an apprenticeship of a
- 51 minimum of six months working with and under the supervision
- of the Chief Drug Investigator chief drug investigator or
- 53 other investigator designated by the board. Each such An
- 54 investigator, before entering upon his or her duties, shall
- 55 post with the board a bond in the amount of two thousand
- dollars (\$2,000) conditioned upon the faithful performance of



57 his or her duties.

- 58 <u>(b) Each A</u> state drug investigator shall have the power 59 to inspect shall:
- (1) Inspect the medicines and drugs or drug products—or

 domestic remedies which that are manufactured, packaged,

 packed, made, sold, offered for sale, exposed for sale, or

 kept for sale in this state; and for this purpose shall have

 the right to enter—
 - (2) Subject to subsection (c), enter and inspect during business hours any pharmacy or any other place in this state where medicines or drugs or drug products or proprietary medicines are manufactured, packaged, packed, made, sold, offered for sale, or kept for sale, whether or not licensed by the board; and
- (3) Inspect prescription files, prescription records,
 poison registers, exempt narcotic registers, and any other
 records pertaining to the filling and filing of prescriptions.
 - (c) <u>Each A</u> state drug investigator shall be subject to the same restrictions as other <u>law enforcement</u> officers of the <u>law in</u> with regard to search and seizure. <u>They</u>
 - (d) A state drug investigator shall report to the board all violations of the laws—law relating to pharmacy and all rules and regulations—of the board. As directed by the board, it shall be the duty of the state drug investigators to issue eitations—a state drug investigator shall issue written

 warnings for violations of such laws—or rules—or regulations or institute criminal proceedings against persons for such violations.





- (e) When authorized by the board and where there are specific complaints, the a state drug investigator shall have the right to may inspect all records, shipping tickets, or any other document pertaining to the transfer of drugs or drug preparations, from or to hospitals, pharmacists, wholesale establishments and manufacturers, or any other place or establishment where the preparations of drugs are kept or stored. They shall have the authority to inspect all prescription files, prescription record books, poison registers, exempt narcotic registers, and any other records pertaining to the filling and filing of prescriptions. It shall be the duty of the
- 97 (f) A state drug investigator to shall take possession
 98 of all revoked licenses and permits or suspended licenses and
 99 permits, or both, when such licenses and permits are not
 100 surrendered voluntarily to the board by the person or
 101 pharmacist individual or entity whose license or permit has
 102 been revoked or suspended.
 - (g) Nothing in this chapter shall authorize or require the a state drug investigator or state drug investigators to inspect the offices of doctors of medicine physicians who have duly qualified with the State Board of Medical Examiners."

107 "\$34-23-8

(a) No person shall dispense or cause to be dispensed a different drug or brand of drug in lieu of that ordered or prescribed without the express permission in each case of the person ordering or prescribing such drug, except as provided below:



- 113 (1) A licensed pharmacist in this state shall be permitted to select for the brand name drug product prescribed 114 115 by a licensed physician or other practitioner who is located 116 in this state and authorized by law to write prescriptions, 117 hereinafter referred to as "practitioner," a less expensive pharmaceutically and therapeutically equivalent drug product 118 containing the same active ingredient or ingredients, and of 119 120 the same dosage form strength, in all cases where the 121 practitioner expressly authorizes such selection in accordance 122 with subdivision (4).
- 123 (2) A licensed pharmacist located in this state shall be permitted to select for the brand name drug product 124 125 prescribed by a practitioner who is located in another state 126 or licensing jurisdiction and who is authorized by the laws of 127 that state or jurisdiction to write prescriptions, a less expensive pharmaceutically and therapeutically equivalent drug 128 129 product containing the same active ingredient or ingredients, 130 and of the same dosage form strength, in all cases where the 131 out-of-state licensed physician or other practitioner does not 132 expressly prohibit a substitution.
 - (3) A pharmacist shall record on the prescription form the name and manufacturer or distributor of any drug product dispensed as herein authorized.

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(4) a. Every written prescription issued in this state by a licensed practitioner shall contain two signature lines. One line shall indicate if the brand name is meant to be dispensed and the other shall indicate if a product selection is permitted. The practitioner shall communicate instructions



141 to the pharmacist by signing on the appropriate line.

- b. An oral or electronic prescription, including an e-fax, from the practitioner shall instruct the pharmacist whether or not a less expensive pharmaceutically and therapeutically equivalent drug product may be dispensed. The pharmacist shall note instructions on the file copy of the prescription and retain the prescription form for the period specified by law. The State Board of Pharmacy board shall not adopt any rule affecting the subject matter of this subdivision.
- (5) Unless otherwise indicated by the practitioner, the prescription label on the dispensing container shall indicate the actual drug product dispensed, either the brand name, or if none, the generic name, and the name of the manufacturer or a reasonable abbreviation of the name of the manufacturer.
- (6) (b) This Subsection (a) shall not be interpreted to exclude the use of a formulary or drug list as adopted and approved by a medical staff in a licensed hospital with drugs provided thereunder by procedures established for use within that licensed hospital.
- (7) Any person who violates this section shall be punished by a fine of up to \$1,000."
- 163 "\$34-23-12

164 <u>(a) When it shall appear to the board that any person</u>
165 who is not licensed under the provisions of this chapter is
166 violating any of the provisions of this chapter, the The board
167 may in its own name bring an action in the circuit court for
168 an injunction, and the court of this state—against any person



169	in this state who:
170	(1) Practices pharmacy without a license or permits
171	prescriptions to be compounded or dispensed by a person who is
172	not licensed to practice pharmacy, in violation of Section
173	<u>34-23-50;</u>
174	(2) Operates a pharmacy or other entity without a
175	permit, in violation of Section 34-23-30, 34-23-31, or
176	34-23-32; or
177	(3) Performs pharmacy technician functions without a
178	valid pharmacy technician registration.
179	(b) A court may enjoin any person from violating the
180	provisions of this chapter regardless of whether proceedings
181	have been or may be instituted before the board or whether
182	criminal proceedings have been or may be instituted."
183	" §34-23-13
184	Any person who shall practice A person who does any of
185	the following, unless a penalty is otherwise specifically
186	provided in this chapter, is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor:
187	(1) Practices pharmacy in this state without having
188	first obtained from the board a license, or who permits from
189	the board.
190	(2) Permits prescriptions to be compounded and/or or
191	dispensed by unauthorized persons .; or who violates any of the
192	provisions of this chapter; or who willfully
193	(3) Willfully violates any published provision of this
194	chapter or rule or regulation of adopted by the board; or who
195	does any act described in this chapter as unlawful, the

196 penalty for which is not herein specifically provided, shall

be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by fine of not more than \$1,000 for each offense, to be fixed by the court trying the case, and in addition thereto may be, in the discretion of the court trying the case, sentenced to hard labor for the county for a period not to exceed 12 months."

"\$34-23-30

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(a) Every pharmacy, hospital pharmacy, drugstore, pharmacy department, prescription department, prescription laboratory, apothecary, or and any other establishment entity with a title implying the sale, offering for sale, compounding, or dispensing of drugs, or and any entity providing pharmacy services for patients residing in this state, shall register biennially and receive a permit from the board in accordance with this chapter. Any person desiring to open, operate, maintain, or establish a pharmacy or to establish an entity to provide pharmacy services shall apply to the board for a permit at least 30 days prior to the opening of the business. No pharmacy or entity performing pharmacy services shall open for the transaction of be authorized to transact business until it the pharmacy or entity has been registered, inspected, and had a permit issued by the board.

(b)(1) The application for a permit shall be made on a form prescribed and furnished by the board which when properly executed shall indicate the ownership desiring such the permit and the names and license numbers of all licensed pharmacists employed as well as the location of the pharmacy or entity



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where pharmacy services are performed and other information as the board may require. If more than one pharmacy or entity where pharmacy services are performed is operated by the same owner, a separate application for registration shall be made and a separate permit issued for each—such establishment entity.

(2) All permits issued under this section shall become due on October 31 and shall become null and void on December 31 of even-numbered years. Every application for a permit for a new pharmacy or entity where pharmacy services are performed shall be accompanied by a fee to be-determined set by the board, by rule., but the fee shall not be less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two hundred dollars (\$200). Every application for a renewal permit shall be accompanied by a fee to be determined by the board, but the fee shall not be less than fifty dollars (\$50) nor more than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). Every application for a permit due to transfer of ownership shall be accompanied by a fee to be determined by the board, but the fee shall not be less than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) nor more than four hundred dollars (\$400). Every application for a permit for an out-of-state pharmacy or entity where pharmacy services are performed shall be accompanied by a fee to be determined by the board, but the fee shall not be less than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) nor more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000). Every application for a renewal permit for an out-of-state pharmacy or entity where pharmacy services are performed shall be accompanied by a fee to be determined by



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the board, but the fee shall not be less than four hundred dollars (\$400) nor more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750). Each application for the renewal of a permit shall be made on or before October 31 of each even-numbered year, at which time the previous permit shall become null and void on December 31 of even-numbered years. A penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25) for each overdue month shall be assessed in addition to the permit fee for renewal of delinquent permits. (3) The secretary of the board shall issue a permit for each pharmacy or entity where pharmacy services are performed whose application is found to be satisfactory by the board. Permits issued under this section shall not be transferable. Any change in the control of ownership or licensed pharmacists shall be reported to the board in writing within 10 days of such occurrence. If the pharmacy or entity where pharmacy services are performed is owned by a corporation, the permit shall be issued in the name of the corporation. It shall be the duty of the owners Owners of pharmacies or the owners of entities where pharmacy services are performed who are not licensed pharmacists to-shall immediately notify the board upon the termination of employment of licensed pharmacists and to shall cause the surrender of permits as indicated. The further operation of the pharmacy or entity where pharmacy services are performed in the absence of licensed pharmacists is forbidden; provided, that the nonregistered owner shall have a period of 30 days within which to comply with this

pharmacist owner shall have a period of 30 days within which

subsection. The next of kin of any deceased licensed



281	to comply with this chapter, during which time no
282	prescriptions shall may be filled unless a licensed pharmacist
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- (4) All permits issued under this section shall expire on December 31 of even-numbered years unless the permit holder renews the permit by paying the applicable renewal fee. The renewal fee is due on December 31, and if not received by that date, the permit shall be considered delinquent and the board may impose a late fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) for each month the renewal fee is late, provided a delinquency fee may not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). The board may also suspend a permit that is not renewed within a prescribed period of time, as determined by rule of the board.
- 294 (c) The board, by rule, shall set the following fees on 295 the holders of permits issued under this section:
- 296 (1) For a permit for a resident pharmacy or resident
 297 entity that performs pharmacy services, a fee of not less than
 298 one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five hundred dollars
 299 (\$500).
 - (2) For a resident pharmacy permit renewal, a fee of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than three hundred dollars (\$300).
- 303 (3) For a transfer of ownership, a fee of not less than
 304 one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) nor more than four hundred
 305 dollars (\$400).
- 306 (4) For a permit for a nonresident pharmacy or

 307 nonresident entity that performs pharmacy services, a fee of

 308 not less than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) nor more than



- 309 two thousand dollars (\$2,000).
- 310 (5) For a renewal permit for a nonresident pharmacy or
- 311 nonresident entity that performs pharmacy services, a fee of
- 312 not less than four hundred dollars (\$400) nor more than seven
- 313 hundred fifty dollars (\$750).
- 314 (d) No mail order pharmacy shall transact business in
- 315 this state without a permit from the board.
- 316 (b) (e) Requirements for the grant of authority by the
- 317 board to any entity providing pharmacy services shall be by
- 318 board rule The board, by rule, shall establish qualifications
- for any individual or entity providing pharmacy services in
- 320 the state.
- $\frac{(c)}{(c)}$ (f) Nothing contained in this section related to
- 322 pharmacy services permits shall be interpreted to delegate to
- 323 the board the authority to adopt rules governing pharmacy
- 324 benefit benefits managers.
- 325 (d) Any person who violates this section shall be
- 326 guilty of a misdemeanor."
- 327 "\$34-23-32.2
- 328 (a) Any requirements established by the FDA Guidelines
- 329 in the Drug Quality and Security Act shall be adhered to by
- 330 the affected parties.
- (b) (1) The board may issue an annual permit to any
- 332 manufacturer, manufacturer affiliate, bottler, packager,
- 333 repackager, third party third-party logistic provider,
- 334 wholesale drug distributor, private label distributor, or
- 335 pharmacy business identified in the supply chain of any drugs,
- 336 legend drugs, medicines, chemicals, or poisons for medicinal



337 purposes.

various categories of permits issued under this section—and fines for violations of this section of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000). In addition, the board, by rule, may establish renewal fees and late fees for failure to renew a permit in a timely manner. Proceeds received by the board from fees levied and fines—collected pursuant to this section shall be used by the board to fund the costs of permitting, inspecting, and investigating any business permitted pursuant to this section."

349 "\$34-23-33

- (a) The board may revoke or suspend a license, permit, certificate, or registration, place on probation, or require remediation—for any licensed pharmacist or a holder of a pharmacy intern or extern certificate for a specified time as determined by the board and take the same or similar action against the permit to operate any pharmacy in this state, or impose monetary penalties in accordance with subsection (b) against any person who holds a license, permit, certificate, or registration issued by the board whenever the board finds by a preponderance of the evidence, or pursuant to a consent decree, that the pharmacist has been guilty of any of the following acts or offenses any of the following:
 - (1) Obtaining a license, permit, <u>certificate</u>, or registration from the board by fraudulent means.
 - (2) Violation of the laws Violating any law regulating



the sale or dispensing of narcotics, exempt narcotics, or drugs bearing the label "caution, federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription," or similar wording which causes the drugs to be classified as prescription legend drugs.

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- (3) Conviction of a felony. A copy of the record of the conviction, certified by the clerk of the court entering the conviction, shall be conclusive evidence of the conviction.
- (4) Conviction of any crime or offense that reflects the inability of the practitioner to practice pharmacy with due regard for the health and safety of the patients.
- (5) Demonstrated inability Inability to practice pharmacy with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, incbriation intoxication, misuse of drugs, narcotics, alcohol, chemicals, or any other substance, or as a result of any mental or physical condition. When the issue is whether or not a pharmacist is physically or mentally capable of practicing pharmacy with reasonable skill and safety to patients, then, upon a showing of probable cause to the board that the pharmacist is not capable of practicing pharmacy with reasonable skill and safety to patients, the board may require the pharmacist in question to submit to a psychological examination by a psychologist to determine psychological status or a physical examination by a physician, or both, to determine physical condition. The psychologist or physician, or both, shall be designated by the board. The expense of the examination shall be borne by the board. Where the pharmacist raises the issue of mental or physical competence or appeals a



393 decision regarding his or her mental or physical competence, 394 the pharmacist shall be permitted to obtain his or her own 395 evaluation at the pharmacist's expense. If the objectivity or 396 adequacy of the examination is suspect, the board may complete 397 the examination by the designated practitioners at its own 398 expense. When mental or physical capacity to practice is at 399 issue, every pharmacist licensed to practice pharmacy in the 400 state shall be deemed to have given consent to submit to a 401 mental or physical examination or to any combination of the examinations and to waive all objections to the admissibility 402 403 of the examination, or to previously adjudicated evidence of 404 mental incompetence.

- 405 (6) Gross malpractice or repeated malpractice or gross 406 negligence in the practice of pharmacy.
- 407 (7) Violation of any provisions contained in this 408 chapter or rule of the board.
- 409 (8) Employing, assisting, or enabling in any manner any unlicensed person to practice pharmacy.
- 411 (9) The suspension, revocation, or probation by another 412 state of a license to practice pharmacy. A certified copy of 413 the record of suspension, revocation, or probation of the state making such a imposing the suspension, revocation, or 414 415 probation shall be conclusive evidence of the suspension, revocation, or probation. This subdivision does not authorize 416 417 the board to take any disciplinary action, including imposition of a monetary penalty, against any individual or 418 entity that has not been issued a license, permit, 419



- 421 any provision of this chapter or rule of the board.
- 422 (10) Refusal to appear before the board after having
- 423 been ordered to do so in writing by the executive officer
- 424 secretary or chair of the board.
- 425 (11) Making any fraudulent or untrue statement to the
- 426 board.
- 427 (12) Violation of any rule or regulation of the board.
- 428 $\frac{(13)}{(12)}$ (12) Violation of the code of professional conduct
- 429 adopted by the board in the rules and regulations of the
- 430 board.
- (b) (1) The board shall have the authority to adopt
- 432 rules imposing a non-disciplinary administrative penalty for
- 433 designated violations of this chapter may impose monetary
- 434 penalties in the form of civil penalties for disciplinary
- 435 violations and administrative fines for non-disciplinary
- 436 violations of this chapter and rules of the board, as
- determined by the board.
- 438 (2) The board, by rule, shall adopt a monetary penalty
- 439 schedule or schedules, which shall include both civil
- 440 penalties and administrative fines, and which may be dollar
- 441 amount ranges based on the underlying violation. After the
- 442 rule is certified, the board shall publish the monetary
- 443 penalty schedule or schedules on the board's website.
- Beginning January 1, 2026, the board may not impose any
- 445 monetary penalty unless the monetary penalty is covered and
- 446 addressed by a monetary penalty schedule formally adopted by
- 447 rule.
- 448 (3) When determining the amount of a monetary penalty



for a specific violation, the board shall consider the level
and scope of misconduct, the level of risk to public health
and safety, the compliance history of the violator, and if the
violator is an entity, the size of the business, including its
annual revenues."

454 "\$34-23-34

No disciplinary action <u>described in Section 34-23-33</u> relating to the license, registration, certificate, or permit of any <u>person_individual</u> or entity regulated by the board may be taken unless a statement of charges and notice of hearing has been served on the <u>person_individual</u> or entity at least 30 days before the date fixed for the hearing. The board, at its sole discretion, may serve the statement of charges by personal service or by registered or certified mail or delivery by any recognized delivery or courier service to the address of the <u>person_individual</u> or entity in the records of the board. The burden of proof shall be on the board."

"§34-23-52

(a) (1) All certificates of licensure shall expire on December 31 of even-numbered years. In order to continue to be licensed, every unless a licensed pharmacist shall pay to the secretary of the board a biennial pays a renewal fee to be determined in a specified amount set by the board, by rule. The but the The fee shall not be less than twenty-five dollars (\$25) nor more than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The renewal fee shall be due on October December 31 and delinquent after December 31 of even-numbered years, except that holders of life certificates to practice pharmacy previously issued



477	shall not be required to pay a renewal fee. The payment of the
478	renewal fee shall entitle the registrants to renewal of their
479	certificates at the discretion of the board. If any pharmacist
480	fails to pay a the renewal fee on or before the due date, the
481	holder of the certificate may be reinstated as a licensed
482	pharmacist only upon payment of a penalty of ten dollars (\$10)
483	for each lapsed month and all lapsed fees, provided by
484	December 31, the board in accordance with board rule, may
485	<pre>impose a late fee which may not exceed ten dollars (\$10) for</pre>
486	each lapsed month. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the lapsed
487	time of registration may not exceed five years, in which case
488	reinstatement may occur only upon satisfactory examination by
489	the board.
490	(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1), holders of life

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1), holders of life certificates to practice pharmacy previously issued shall not be required to pay a renewal fee.

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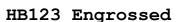
"\$34-23-90

- 493 (b) In addition to any fee requirements, each
 494 pharmacist shall be required to complete continuing education
 495 for each renewal period, as determined by the board by rule."
- 497 (a) The Alabama State Board of Pharmacy is <u>created and</u>
 498 vested with the authority to carry out the purposes of and
 499 enforce this chapter.
 - (b) (1) The Beginning October 1, 2025, the board shall consist of five members who are residents of this state appointed in a manner that ensures that each congressional district in the state is represented by a board member who resides in that district during his or her entire term of



505	office. Subject to subdivision (3), membership of the board
506	shall be as follows:
507	a. One hospital pharmacist licensed by the board who is
508	appointed by the Governor from a list of three names submitted
509	by the Alabama Society of Health System Pharmacists.
510	b. One chain pharmacist licensed by the board who is
511	appointed by the Governor from a list of three names submitted
512	from the Alabama Pharmacy Association.
513	c. One independent pharmacist licensed by the board who
514	is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor from a list of three
515	names submitted from the Alabama Pharmacy Association.
516	d. One specialty pharmacist, such as a nuclear, home
517	infusion, compounding only, or consultant pharmacist, licensed
518	by the board who is appointed by the Speaker of the House of
519	Representatives from a list of three names submitted from the
520	Alabama Pharmacy Association.
521	e. One institutional pharmacist, such as a
522	non-hospital, nursing home, assisted living, or prison
523	pharmacist, licensed by the board who is appointed by the
524	President Pro Tempore of the Senate from a list of three names
525	submitted from the Alabama Society of Health System
526	Pharmacists.
527	f. One academic pharmacist licensed by the board who is
528	appointed by the Lieutenant Governor from a list of four
529	names, with two names each submitted from the two state
530	pharmacy schools.
531	g. One at-large pharmacist licensed by the board

appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives from





533 <u>a list of three names submitted from the Alabama Pharmacy</u>
534 <u>Association.</u>

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h. One registered pharmacy technician licensed by the board appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate from a list of three names submitted from the Alabama Pharmacy Association.

i. One at-large consumer who is appointed by the

Governor. The members of the board shall be licensed

pharmacists who have been licensed in this state for a minimum of five years and who are actively engaged in the practice of pharmacy or pharmacy administration, or both.

(b) Three members shall be appointed by the Governor. Of the three appointed members, one member shall be engaged in the practice of pharmacy or pharmacy administration, or both, in a hospital, one in an independent pharmacy, and one in a chain pharmacy. On or before August 1, 1996, and each five years thereafter, or whenever a vacancy occurs in the designated position for hospital pharmacists, the Alabama Society of Health System Pharmacists, or its successor organization, shall submit a list of three nominees to the Governor. On or before August 1, 1994, and each five years thereafter, or whenever a vacancy occurs in the designated position for a chain pharmacist, the Alabama Pharmacy Association, or its successor organization, shall submit a list of three nominees to the Governor. On or before August 1, 1997, and each five years thereafter, or whenever a vacancy occurs in the designated position for the independent pharmacist, the independent pharmacist members of the Alabama



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Pharmacy Association, or its successor organization, shall submit a list of three nominees to the Governor. From the names submitted to the Governor, the Governor shall appoint a replacement on or before December 31 of the same year the nominations are received, for the member or members whose term terms are expiring. Background information shall be provided for each nominee for an appointed position. (c) (1) On or before December 1, 1995, and each five vears thereafter, and on or before December 1, 1998, and each five years thereafter, or whenever a vacancy occurs in a nondesignated position, the Board of Trustees of the Alabama Pharmacy Association, or its successor organization, shall select a committee of five pharmacists who are members of the association to serve as a nominating committee. No member of the nominating committee shall be a candidate. The committee shall receive names of pharmacists actively engaged in pharmacy practice or administration, or both, from companies and individuals, and shall narrow the list of nominees to two names to be placed on a ballot to be voted on by all Alabama pharmacists.

(2) The election procedure for a nondesignated slot shall be as follows: Each candidate shall provide a biographical sketch of not more than 150 words, which shall include his or her most recent practice experience. The board shall select a third party to conduct the election and tabulate the ballot results. The election ballots and a biographical sketch of the candidates shall be delivered by the third party to Alabama licensed pharmacists by September

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1. The ballot delivery shall be conducted in a secure manner
to safeguard organizational data and to ensure the integrity
of the voting process. Completed election ballots must be
received by the third party no later than October 1 to be
tabulated. A pharmacist receiving a majority of the ballots
received shall be considered the winner. If a runoff election
is necessary, the runoff ballots shall be delivered to
licensed pharmacists by November 1 by the same method of
ballot delivery as provided above. Completed runoff election
ballots must be received by the third party no later than
December 1 to be tabulated.

- (3) The ballots for each election shall be tabulated by the third party and the results shall be certified and audited by the third party. The results of the tabulation and audit shall be made available to any candidate and to the nominating body upon request.
- (2) The pharmacist members of the board shall be licensed pharmacists who have been licensed in this state for a minimum of five years and who are actively engaged in the practice of pharmacy or pharmacy administration, or both. The pharmacy technician member of the board shall be a nationally certified technician who has been registered in this state for a minimum of five years and who is actively engaged in the practice as a pharmacy technician.
- (3) Any member serving on the board on October 1, 2025, shall continue to serve until his or her term expires, at which time the Governor shall appoint a member who meets the requirements in subdivision (1). A member serving on the board



617	on October 1, 2025, who meets the requirements of subdivision
618	(1) may be reappointed to an additional term, provided the
619	reappointment complies with subsection (d).
620	(4) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their
621	appointments to assure that board membership is inclusive and
622	reflects the racial, gender, urban, rural, and economic
623	diversity of the state.
624	(5) For the four additional members of the board whose
625	term begins October 1, 2025, the Governor shall set staggered
626	terms of two years, three years, and four years, at his or her
627	discretion, with all initial terms ending on December 31 of
628	the respective terms. Following initial terms, each member of
629	the board shall serve a term of five years beginning on
630	January 1 following appointment and terminating on December 31
631	of his or her fifth year as a member of the board.
632	(d)(c) Any vacancies occurring on the board other than
633	by expiration of term-shall be filled by election or
634	appointment—only for the unexpired term and shall be filled by
635	the same procedure that the replaced member was elected or
636	appointed by the respective appointing authority for the
637	unexpired term. Each member of the board shall serve a term of
638	five years beginning on January 1 following appointment and
639	terminating on December 31 of his or her fifth year as a
640	member of the board.
641	(e) (d) No pharmacist member shall serve more than two
642	full terms consecutively.
643	(f)(e)(1) The Governor, upon recommendation of the
644	board, may remove a member of the board upon proven charges of



inefficiency, incompetency, immorality, or professional
misconduct. The replacement member shall be elected or
appointed by the same procedure that the removed member was
elected or appointed respective appointing authority for the
unexpired term.

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- (2) Appointees to the board, within 30 days after their appointment—or election, shall take an oath or make affirmation before a properly qualified officer that he or she will faithfully and impartially perform the duties of his or her office. This oath or affirmation shall be filed with the Secretary of State.
- (3) At its last regular meeting in each calendar year, the board shall elect for a term of one year, effective the following January 1, a president, a vice-president vice president, and a treasurer who shall be pharmacist members of the board. No member shall serve more than two years in the same office on the board during a five-year term.
- 662 (4) a. The Not later than November 1, 2025, the board 663 shall—also elect a secretary who shall appoint a secretary as 664 executive officer to the board, to serve at the pleasure of 665 the board. The individual appointed by the board may not have 666 served in any capacity for the board, including as secretary, 667 during the five years prior to his or her appointment. The 668 secretary may not serve as a member of the board and may not 669 be employed during the service by any person holding a 670 license, permit, certificate, or registration issued by the board., and the 671
 - b. The board shall have the authority to fix the amount

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of the secretary's remuneration. If a board member is selected as secretary, the board member shall resign from the board and a replacement on the board shall be selected by the same procedure by which the resigned member was originally elected or appointed salary. The secretary shall not be employed during the service by any registrant of the board.

(g) For the purpose of this section, a chain pharmacy is defined as any retail pharmacy employing in Alabama a minimum of 40 full-time equivalent pharmacists. A chain pharmacist is defined as a pharmacist employed on a full-time basis by a chain pharmacy for a minimum of three years.

(h) It is the intent of the Legislature that the composition of the board reflect the demographics of the pharmacy profession. For vacancies occurring after March 18, 2005, the nominating organizations and the appointing authorities shall select those individuals whose appointments assure that the membership of the board is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of this state."

"§34-23-91

(a) The president of the board shall preside at all of the board's meetings. The vice-president shall preside in the absence or inability of the president. The secretary of the board shall be the executive officer in charge of the board's office. The secretary shall make, keep, and be in charge of all records and record books required to be kept by the board, including a register containing all information which shall be required under this chapter. The secretary shall attend to the



correspondence of the board and perform any other duties the board may require in keeping with the office of secretary. The secretary shall receive and record all fees collected under this chapter and, at regular intervals as ordered by the board, shall pay the fees to the treasurer of the board for its use. The secretary may have any forms printed and office supplies furnished as necessary to implement this chapter. The secretary and treasurer of the board shall each furnish bond in an amount to be fixed by the board and shall be conditioned upon the faithful performance and discharge of their respective official duties.

(b) The While serving on business of the board and from funds of the board, members shall be entitled to a per diem of five hundred dollars (\$500) per day for days when members actually engage in official business of the board. In addition, members of the board shall be paid the same per diem and travel allowance entitled to actual expenses incurred as is paid by law to state employees while engaged in the performance of the duties official business of the board, in addition to any daily compensation or allowance determined by the board. For purposes of this subsection, attending continuing education classes or otherwise engaging in an activity necessary solely to maintain a member's license to practice pharmacy or registration to practice as a pharmacy technician is not considered official business of the board.

(c) The board shall conduct meetings at least three times annually and more often when deemed necessary for the examination of applicants for licensure and for the



- 729 transaction of business as may legally come before itthe
- 730 board. Public notice of all stated meetings shall be given at
- 731 least 30 days in advance of the meetings comply with the Open
- 732 Meetings Act. At all meetings of the board, a majority shall
- 733 constitute a quorum. The members of the board shall determine
- 734 the place of meetings of the board.
- 735 (d) The treasurer of the board shall have custody of
- 736 all funds derived from the various provisions of this chapter.
- 737 All disbursements shall be made by check as authorized by
- 738 vouchers signed by the president and secretary of the board.
- 739 The books and records of the board as made and kept by the
- 740 secretary or under his or her supervision shall be prima facie
- 741 evidence of the matter therein recorded in any court."
- 742 "\$34-23-92
- 743 The board shall exercise, subject to this chapter,
- 744 shall do all of the following powers and duties:
- 745 (1) To adopt Adopt rules concerning the records and
- 746 reports to be kept and made by a pharmacy relating to the
- 747 filling of prescriptions and the handling and preservation of
- 748 drugs.
- 749 (2) To fix Fix standards and requirements for licenses
- 750 and permits except as otherwise specified in this chapter.
- 751 (3) Set penalties as further provided in Section
- 752 34-23-33 (b).
- 753 (4) Set fees, by rule, for licenses, permits,
- 754 certificates, and registrations as well as renewal fees, late
- 755 fees, delinquency fees, and reinstatement fees as required
- 756 under this chapter, which shall be in a specific amount that



757	shall apply uniformly to all holders of the applicable
758	license, permit, certificate, or registration to which the fee
759	pertains. This subdivision does not authorize the board to
760	impose monetary penalties in addition to a late fee,
761	delinquency fee, or reinstatement fee imposed by the board for
762	failure to timely renew a license, permit, certificate, or

764 (3)(5) To make Adopt rules and regulations regarding 765

sanitation consistent with state health regulations.

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registration.

- (4)(6) To employ such Employ chemists, agents, clerical 766 767 help, and attorneys, and other personnel as necessary for the proper administration of the duties of the board. 768
 - (5) (7) To employ Employ under the supervision of the board a Chief Drug Investigator chief drug investigator and such other state drug investigators that it the board deems necessary to enforce this chapter which are under the supervision of the board.
 - (6) (8) To adopt Adopt rules and regulations for the administration and enforcement of this chapter. and not inconsistent herewith. Such rules and regulations shall be referenced to the section or sections of this chapter which set forth the legislative standard which it interprets or to which it applies. Every such rule and regulation shall be adopted The board shall adopt all rules in accordance with the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act. A copy of every rule and regulation containing a requirement of general application shall be electronically mailed to each registered pharmacist at least 10 days before the effective date thereofof the



- 785 <u>certified rule</u>. A printed copy of <u>such</u>the rules and
 786 <u>regulations</u> shall be mailed to any registered pharmacist upon
 787 written request to the board.
- 788 (7) (9) To investigate Investigate alleged violations of
 789 this chapter, any rule of the board, or any other law
 790 pertaining to the practice of pharmacy that may come to the
 791 knowledge of the board and:
- 792 <u>a. institute</u> Institute or cause to be instituted before
 793 <u>the board or appropriate proceedings</u> in a proper court
 794 <u>appropriate proceedings in connection therewithof competent</u>
 795 <u>jurisdiction; or</u>
- b. Conduct hearings to revoke, suspend, or place on

 probate any license, permit, certificate, or registration

 granted by the board under this chapter, or impose monetary

 penalties as further provided in Section 34-23-33, provided

 any person subjected to a monetary penalty or other

 disciplinary action may take an appeal in accordance with

 Section 34-23-94.
- 803 (8)(10) To issue Issue subpoenas and compel the 804 attendance of witnesses and the production of all necessary 805 papers, books and records, documentary evidence and materials, 806 or other evidence in matters pending before the board relating 807 to the revocation, suspension, or probation of any license. 808 Those persons issued subpoenas and compelled to attend 809 hearings or meetings in matters pending before the board shall 810 be entitled to witness fees from board funds. Claims for witness fees shall be made on accepted State of Alabama 811 812 voucher forms as appropriate. Travel and mileage expenses



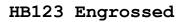
shall be reimbursed to witnesses in the amounts officially authorized to the board and its personnel at the time the service to the board is performed.

(9) (11) To administer Administer oaths in connection with the duties of the board.

written report annually of its receipts and disbursements during the previous fiscal year to the Governor and to the State Pharmaceutical Alabama Pharmacy Association. Included in this report shall be the names of all registrants licensed to practice under this chapter and a record of all permits issued during the period covered by the report.

the state amphetamine act, the state narcotic law, and all other laws of the state which pertain to the practice of pharmacy, the examination of applicants, the licensing of pharmacists, the manufacture, packaging, repackaging, production, sale, or distribution of drugs, chemicals, and poisons, and all laws pertaining to standards for their strength and purity. The board may work in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies to enforce any law pertaining to the practice of pharmacy. Nothing in this section subdivision shall be construed to deprive the State Board of Health—Alabama Department of Public Health of any powers or duties otherwise prescribed by law including the enforcement of the narcotic law.

(12) To investigate alleged violations of this chapter or any rule or regulation published by the board and conduct





841	hearings to revoke, suspend, or probate any license or permit
842	granted by the board under this chapter and to invoke
843	penalties not to exceed the sum of one thousand dollars
844	(\$1,000) for each violation and to institute any legal
845	proceedings necessary to effect compliance with this chapter;
846	provided, that any person, firm, or corporation subjected to
847	such penalty or legal proceedings may take an appeal in
848	accordance with Section 34-23-94.
849	(14) Cooperate and assist with prosecuting officers in
850	any proceeding involving an alleged criminal offense and
851	furnish prosecuting officers with any evidence the board, its
852	officers, or employees determine will assist in the
853	prosecution of a criminal offense.
854	$\frac{(13)}{(15)}$ On application of any person and payment of
855	the <u>actual</u> cost therefor of providing a certified copy, the
856	secretary of the board shall furnish, under its seal and
857	signed by the secretary, a certified copy of the license or
858	permit of the requester requester, or a certified copy of a
859	regulation or rule of the board. In any court or proceeding,
860	such the copy shall be prima facie evidence of the fact of the
861	issuance of <u>such_the_permit</u> or license _and the adoption of
862	such rule or regulation.
863	(14) (16) To acquire Acquire by gift, grant, purchase,
864	condemnation, or otherwise, and to convey or hold title to,
865	real property, together with all rights incidental thereto."
866	" §34-23-93
867	(a) (1) The board and its members and officers shall
868	assist prosecuting officers in the enforcement of this

chapter, and it shall be the duty of the board, its members and officers to furnish the proper prosecuting officers with such evidence as it or they may ascertain to assist them in the prosecution of any violation of this chapter, and the board is authorized for such purposes to make such reasonable expenditures from the funds of the board as it may deem necessary to ascertain and furnish such evidence. The Attorney General of the state shall be the attorney for the board, but the board may in its discretion employ other counsel. It shall be the duty of the district attorney of the judicial circuit wherein any offense is committed to prosecute violations of this chapter.

(2) a. Not later than November 1, 2025, the board shall divide the office of general counsel into two distinct divisions. One division shall be responsible for all disciplinary functions, and the other division shall be responsible for administrative nondisciplinary functions, including providing advice to and answering questions from holders of licenses, permits, certificates, or registrations or prospective holders of licenses, permits, certificates or registrations regarding statutory and regulatory compliance.

b. The board, by rule, shall establish internal procedures that ensure that any inquiries made by the holder of a license, permit, certificate, or registration or other person seeking advice or guidance regarding compliance with a statute or rule is addressed by the administrative division and is not disclosed to the disciplinary division unless an attorney reasonably believes a criminal violation may have



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- (b) The board may request assistance from the Attorney

 General or other legal counsel employed by the board, as

 appropriate. The Attorney General or other legal counsel shall

 assist the board, upon request, in any action for injunction

 brought by the board."
- 903 "\$34-23-131
- 904 (a) A pharmacy technician shall not perform pharmacy
 905 functions or be present in the prescription department of a
 906 pharmacy unless he or she is under the direct supervision of a
 907 licensed pharmacist. A pharmacy technician shall not perform
 908 pharmacy functions or be present in the prescription
 909 department of a pharmacy unless he or she is registered by the
 910 board.
- 911 (b) When supervision is required, a licensed pharmacist 912 shall be jointly responsible and liable for the actions of a 913 pharmacy technician.
- 914 (c) (1) A pharmacy technician shall register and pay a 915 registration fee as determined in a specified amount set by 916 the board, by rule, before performing any pharmacy functions. 917 The fee shall be not less than twenty dollars (\$20) nor more 918 than sixty dollars (\$60). The board shall adopt rules relating 919 to the registration of all pharmacy technicians. The 920 registration of a pharmacy technician shall be renewable 921 biennially in odd-numbered years upon payment of the required renewal fee. 922
- 923 (2) The registration of each pharmacy technician shall 924 expire on December 31 of odd-numbered years. In order to

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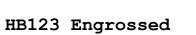
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(d) In addition to any other registration requirements, a pharmacy technician shall complete three hours of continuing education annually, or six hours biennially, of which one hour per year shall be live presentation. The board may grant an extension to a pharmacy technician who fails to complete the required continuing education hours in the allotted time. A pharmacy technician who fails to complete the annual continuing education requirements in a timely manner shall be subject to disciplinary action by the board."

Section 4. Not later than February 1, 2026, the board shall submit a report to the respective chairs and vice chairs



953	of the House Health and Senate Healthcare standing committees
954	and all members of the Sunset Committee and Legislative
955	Council. The report shall review all rules of the board and
956	identify those rules that conflict with Chapter 23 of Title
957	34, Code of Alabama 1975, with a plan for how to bring all
958	rules into compliance with Chapter 23 no later than October 1,
959	2026.
960	Section 5. The Legislature concurs in the
961	recommendations of the Sunset Committee as provided in
962	Sections 1 through 4.
963	Section 6. This act shall become effective immediately.





964 965 966	House of Representatives
967 968 969 970 971	Read for the first time and referred04-Feb-25 to the House of Representatives committee on Boards, Agencies and Commissions
972 973 974 975	Read for the second time and placed
976 977 978 979 980 981 982	Read for the third time and passed
983 984 985	John Treadwell Clerk