**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**S. 477**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Davis and Ott

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Introduced in the Senate on March 20, 2025

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Medical Affairs**

Summary: Pharmacy access

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 3/20/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 3)

 3/20/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Medical Affairs** (Senate Journal‑page 3)

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[03/20/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/477_20250320.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 40‑43‑210, RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF A “SELF‑ADMINiSTERED HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVE” IN THE PHARMACY PRACTICE ACT, SO AS TO REVISE THE DEFINITION; BY AMENDING SECTION 40‑43‑230, RELATING TO PHARMACISTS PERMITTED TO DISPENSE SELF‑ADMINISTERED HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVES IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, SO AS TO PROVIDE SUCH DISPENSATIONS MAY BE MADE PURSUANT TO CERTAIN WRITTEN JOINT PROTOCOLS; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 40‑43‑240, RELATING TO WRITTEN JOINT PROTOCOLS BY the BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND THE BOARD OF PHARMACY TO AUTHORIZE PHARMACISTS TO DISPENSE SELF‑ADMINISTERED HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVES WITHOUT PATIENT‑SPECIFIC WRITTEN ORDERS, SO AS TO INSTEAD PROVIDE THE DISPENSATIONS MAY BE MADE UNDER STANDING ORDERS OR WITHOUT STANDING ORDERS WHEN DISPENSED OR ADMINiSTERED PURSUANT TO CERTAIN WRITTEN JOINT PROTOCOLS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 40‑43‑210(9) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 (9) “Self‑administered hormonal contraceptive” means a drug composed of a hormone or a combination of hormones that is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration to prevent pregnancy and that the patient to whom the drug is prescribed or dispensed may administer to himselfherself. “Self‑administered hormonal contraceptive” includes an oral hormonal contraceptive, a hormonal vaginal ring, and a hormonal contraceptive patch. “Self‑administered hormonal contraceptive” does not include an intrauterine device or any drug intended to terminate a pregnancy.

SECTION 2. Section 40‑43‑230(A) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 (A) A person licensed under the South Carolina Pharmacy Practice Act who is acting in good faith and exercising reasonable care as a pharmacist and who is employed by a hospital or a pharmacy that is permitted by this State may dispense a self‑administered hormonal contraceptive or administer an injectable hormonal contraceptive pursuant to a standing order by a prescriber, or pursuant to the written joint protocols as required by this chapter, to a patient who is:

 (1) eighteen years of age or older; or

 (2) under eighteen years of age if the person has evidence of a previous prescription from a practitioner for a self‑administered hormonal contraceptive or an injectable hormonal contraceptive.

SECTION 3. Section 40‑43‑240(A) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 (A) The Board of Medical Examiners and the Board of Pharmacy must issue a written joint protocol to authorize a pharmacist to dispense a self‑administered hormonal contraceptive or administer an injectable hormonal contraceptive without a patient‑specific written orderunder a standing order or without a standing order when the contraceptive is being dispensed or administered pursuant to the written joint protocols as required by this chapter.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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