

Thank you for taking public comment on the proposed rules for fee Structures for licensing, Laboratory and Administrative Services Provided by the Department of Health (216RICR10052). Fee structures should be reviewed periodically to ensure the fee for each is appropriate for all the professions described within. The Rhode Island Pharmacist Association would like to comment on the fee for renewal of a pharmacist license.

The current fee for a pharmacist renewal in the state of Rhode Island is \$280. This fee is currently the highest annually charged fee in the United States. This fee was set when the pharmacy profession was experiencing a shortage of pharmacists and experienced rapid salary growth. Since this time the demand for pharmacists has declined rapidly nationally and acutely in Rhode Island. The surplus of pharmacists has allowed starting and average salary values to decline over the past several years.

Cost of a pharmacist license renewal in New England

State	Length valid	Cost per renewal
Maine	1 year	75 RPh 20 immunization
New Hampshire	2 years	250 RPh 20 Immunization
Massachusetts	2 years	150 RPh
Vermont	2 years	125 RPh
Connecticut	2 years	120 RPh
Rhode Island	1 year	280 RPh

The Rhode Island Board of Pharmacy carries out its duties to great effect but does not provide services 100% greater than the next most costly annual fee in the region.

A reduction in the fee or move to a biennial renewal period at the same charge would align RI with the rest of our regional neighbors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Matt LaCroix, PharmD Kenny Correia, PharmD

President RIPA

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Rhode Island Pharmacists Association

Rhode Island Pharmacists Association