

ON AIR



# Health Freedom Minute

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## The PBM Battle Begins in Tennessee

PBMs, or pharmacy benefit managers, act as middlemen between pharmacies and insurance companies. Three PBMs handle about 80% of all prescriptions in the U.S. This monopoly means higher prices for all. To shut down small independent pharmacies, the PBMs often reimburse affiliated pharmacies at higher rates.

Tennessee has now passed a law prohibiting PBMs from owning pharmacies. Rather than give up the lucrative PBMs, CVS says it may close all 134 of its pharmacy locations in the state. The law gives PBMs with pharmacies six months to divest ownership, but CVS has already filed a lawsuit in federal court, calling the law unconstitutional.

**“Gov. Lee Signs Tennessee bill banning PBMs from owning pharmacies,”** Holly Lehren, NewChannel5 (Nashville), Updated May 22, 2026: <https://www.newschannel5.com/news/gov-lee-signs-tennessee-bill-banning-pbms-from-owning-pharmacies>

**Forest Park Pharmacy, X.com:**

<https://x.com/ForestParkPharm/status/2058955596515115481>

Presented daily by Twila Brase, President and Co-founder  
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