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CHAPTER 5  
ARTICLE IX  
PRESCRIBING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Section 1- Arkansas optometrist licensed as optometric physician who applies for and possess a DEA number shall:

- A. Prescribe schedules III, IV, and V controlled substances only.
- B. Administer and prescribe controlled substances for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and conditions of the eye, lids, and adnexa.
- C. Not sell any prescription medication including controlled substances.
- D. Be responsible for knowing and abiding by all state and federal regulations pertaining to controlled substances with emphasis on the "Mid-Level Practitioner's Manual", published by the DEA, and all State Board rules and regulations pertaining to controlled substances. Record the names and directions of prescribed controlled substances in the patient's record.
- E. A prescriber who has been found by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry to be in violation of a rule or law involving prescription drugs shall be required by the board to register with the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and access patient information before writing a prescription for an opioid. The board, in its discretion, may remove this requirement after a period of time if the board deems removal of the requirement appropriate.
- F. Within the first two (2) years of being granted a license in the state, a prescriber shall obtain a minimum of three (3) hours of prescribing education approved by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry. The education approved by the board under this section shall include:
  - 1. Options for online and in-person programs; and
  - 2. Information on prescribing rules, regulations, and laws that apply to individuals who are licensed in the state.
  - 3. Information and instructions on prescribing controlled substances, record keeping and maintaining safe and professional boundaries.

~~This section shall apply to all prescribers licensed after December 31, 2015.~~

- ~~G. A prescriber shall check the information in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program when prescribing:
 
  - ~~1. An opioid from Schedule II through Schedule III for every time prescribing the medication to a patient; and~~
  - ~~2. A benzodiazepine medication for the first time prescribing the medication to a patient.~~~~
- ~~H. A practitioner who fails to access the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program as required is subject to disciplinary action by the Board.~~

Section 2-

- A. Only optometrists certified as optometric physicians, and/or approved by the Board, shall apply for or possess a DEA number to prescribe controlled substances.
- B. Optometrists not specifically approved by the Board to prescribe controlled substances:
  - 1. Cannot apply for, obtain or possess a DEA number
  - 2. Cannot prescribe controlled substances without being in violation of State and Federal laws.

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S2/20/17 S3/9/17 S3/13/17 S3/14/17 S3/15/17*  
2 *H3/17/17*

3 91st General Assembly  
4 Regular Session, 2017

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 339

5  
6 By: Senator J. Hutchinson  
7 By: Representative Hammer

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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9  
10 AN ACT TO AMEND THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING  
11 PROGRAM TO MANDATE PRESCRIBERS CHECK THE PRESCRIPTION  
12 DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM WHEN PRESCRIBING CERTAIN  
13 MEDICATIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

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16  
17 TO AMEND THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING  
18 PROGRAM TO MANDATE PRESCRIBERS CHECK THE  
19 PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM WHEN  
20 PRESCRIBING CERTAIN MEDICATIONS.

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22  
23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

24  
25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-7-604(d), concerning the requirements  
26 for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, is amended to read as follows:

27 (d)(1) Practitioners Except as required in subdivision (d)(2) of this  
28 section, practitioners are encouraged to access or check the information in  
29 the controlled substance database created under this subchapter before  
30 prescribing, dispensing, or administering medications.

31 (2)(A) A prescriber shall check the information in the  
32 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program when prescribing:

33 (i) An opioid from Schedule II or Schedule III for  
34 every time prescribing the medication to a patient; and

35 (ii) A benzodiazepine medication for the first time  
36 prescribing the medication to a patient.



1                   (B) A licensing board that licenses practitioners who have  
2 the authority to prescribe shall adopt rules requiring the practitioners to  
3 check the information in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program as  
4 described in subdivision (d)(2) of this section.

5                   (C) This subdivision (d)(2) does not apply to:

6                   (i) A practitioner administering a controlled  
7 substance:

8                                   (a) Immediately before or during surgery;

9                                   (b) During recovery from a surgery while in a  
10 healthcare facility;

11                                   (c) In a healthcare facility; or

12                                   (d) Necessary to treat a patient in an  
13 emergency situation at the scene of an emergency, in a licensed ground  
14 ambulance or air ambulance, or in the intensive care unit of a licensed  
15 hospital;

16                   (ii) A practitioner prescribing or administering a  
17 controlled substance to:

18                                   (a) A palliative care or hospice patient; or

19                                   (b) A resident in a licensed nursing home  
20 facility; or

21                   (iii) Situations in which the Prescription Drug  
22 Monitoring Program is not accessible due to technological or electrical  
23 failure.

24                   (D) The State Board of Health may amend, by rule, the  
25 exemptions listed in subdivision (d)(2)(C) of this section upon a  
26 recommendation from the Director of the Department of Health and a showing  
27 that the exemption or lack of exemption is unnecessarily burdensome or has  
28 created a hardship.

29                   (3) A licensed oncologist shall check the Prescription Drug  
30 Monitoring Program when prescribing to a patient on an initial malignant  
31 episodic diagnosis and every three (3) months following the diagnosis while  
32 continuing treatment.

33  
34                   SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 20-7-607(a)(1), concerning providing  
35 prescription monitoring information to the Prescription Drug Monitoring  
36 Program, is amended to read as follows:

1           (a)(1)(A)(i) The Department of Health ~~may~~ shall review the  
2 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program information, including without  
3 limitation a review to identify information that appears to indicate whether  
4 a person ~~may-be~~ is obtaining prescriptions in a manner that may represent  
5 misuse or abuse of controlled substances based on prescribing criteria  
6 determined by the Director of the Department of Health upon consultation with  
7 the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Advisory Committee.

8                           (ii) The prescribing criteria shall be posted on the  
9 website of the department and be available in print upon request.

10           (B) If the information appears to indicate misuse or abuse  
11 may have occurred, the department shall notify the practitioners and  
12 dispensers who have prescribed or dispensed in the following manner:

13                           (i) The department shall provide quarterly reports  
14 to the individual practitioners and dispensers; and

15                                   (ii) If after twelve (12) months of providing  
16 quarterly reports to the practitioners and dispensers, the information  
17 appears to indicate misuse or abuse may be continuing, the department shall  
18 send a report to the licensing boards of the practitioner or dispenser who  
19 prescribed or dispensed the prescription.

20           (C) If information of misuse or abuse is identified, the  
21 department shall notify the practitioners and dispensers who prescribed or  
22 dispensed the prescriptions and the Office of Diversion Control of the United  
23 States Drug Enforcement Administration.

24           (D) On or before January 1, 2019, the department shall  
25 contract with a vendor to make the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program  
26 interactive and to provide same-day reporting in real-time, if funding and  
27 technology are available.

28  
29           SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 20-7-611, concerning unlawful acts and  
30 penalties regarding the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, is amended to  
31 add an additional subsection to read as follows:

32                           (i) A practitioner who purposely fails to access the Prescription Drug  
33 Monitoring Program as required by § 20-7-604(d) is subject to disciplinary  
34 action by the licensing board of the practitioner.

35  
36           SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 20-7-605(c), concerning the membership of

1 *the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Advisory Committee, is amended to*  
2 *read as follows:*

3 *(c) The committee shall consist of:*

4 *(1) One (1) representative designated by each of the following*  
5 *organizations:*

6 *(A) The Arkansas Academy of Physician Assistants;*

7 *(B) The Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police;*

8 *(C) The Arkansas Drug Director;*

9 *(D) The Arkansas Medical Society;*

10 *(E) The Arkansas Nurses Association;*

11 *(F) The Arkansas Optometric Association;*

12 *(G) The Arkansas Osteopathic Medical Association;*

13 *(H) The Arkansas Pharmacists Association;*

14 *(I) The Arkansas Podiatric Medical Association;*

15 *(J) The Arkansas Prosecuting Attorneys Association;*

16 *(K) The Arkansas Sheriffs' Association;*

17 *(L) The Arkansas State Dental Association;*

18 *(M) The Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association;*

19 *(N) The State Board of Health; and*

20 *(O) The Arkansas Public Defender Commission;*

21 *(2) One (1) mental health provider or certified drug and alcohol*  
22 *counselor; and*

23 *(3) One (1) consumer appointed by the Governor;*

24 *(4) The chair of the Arkansas State Medical Board or his or her*  
25 *designee who is also a member of the Arkansas State Medical Board; and*

26 *(5) The chair of the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners or*  
27 *his or her designee who is also a member of the Arkansas State Board of*  
28 *Dental Examiners.*

29

30 *SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 17-95-303, concerning the powers and duties*  
31 *of the Arkansas State Medical Board, is amended to add an additional*  
32 *subdivision to read as follows:*

33 *(11) Promulgate rules limiting the amount of Schedule II*  
34 *narcotics that may be prescribed and dispensed by licensees of the board.*

35

36 *SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 10-3-309(c), concerning the review and*

1 approval of proposed state agency rules by the Legislative Council, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 (c)(1) A state agency shall file a proposed rule with the Legislative  
4 Council at least thirty (30) days before the expiration of the period for  
5 public comment on the rule under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, §  
6 25-15-201 et seq., or other laws or policies pertaining to the rulemaking  
7 authority of that state agency.

8 (2) The Legislative Council shall assign proposed rules to the  
9 Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Legislative Council.

10 (3)(A)(i) The proposed rule shall be reviewed by the  
11 Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Legislative Council.

12 (ii) When reviewing a rule under subdivision  
13 (c)(3)(A)(i) of this section, the Administrative Rules and Regulations  
14 Subcommittee of the Legislative Council shall allow members of the public a  
15 reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed rule.

16 (B)(i)(a) Except as set forth in subdivision (c)(3)(B)(ii)  
17 of this subsection, Upon upon conclusion of the review of the proposed rule  
18 by the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Legislative  
19 Council, the proposed rule shall be considered approved unless a majority of  
20 a quorum present request that the Administrative Rules and Regulations  
21 Subcommittee of the Legislative Council vote on the issue of approving the  
22 proposed rule.

23 ~~(ii)(b)~~ If the Administrative Rules and Regulations  
24 Subcommittee of the Legislative Council votes on the issue of approving the  
25 proposed rule, the proposed rule shall be approved unless a majority of a  
26 quorum present vote for the proposed rule to not be approved.

27 (ii) A proposed rule submitted by the State Board of  
28 Health under Arkansas Code § 20-7-604(d)(2)(D), concerning exemptions from  
29 the requirements of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, shall be  
30 considered reviewed and approved by the subcommittee upon an affirmative vote  
31 of three-fourths (3/4) of the members present when a quorum is present.

32 (4)(A)(i) Except as set forth in subdivision (c)(4)(B) of this  
33 subsection, A a proposed rule approved by the Administrative Rules and  
34 Regulations Subcommittee of the Legislative Council shall be considered  
35 approved by the Legislative Council unless a majority of a quorum present  
36 request that the Legislative Council vote on the issue of approving the

1 proposed rule.

2 ~~(B)(ii)~~ If the Legislative Council votes on the issue of  
3 approving the proposed rule, the proposed rule shall be approved unless a  
4 majority of a quorum present vote for the proposed rule to not be approved.

5 (B) A proposed rule submitted by the State Board of Health  
6 under Arkansas Code § 20-7-604(d)(2)(D), concerning exemptions from the  
7 requirements of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, shall be considered  
8 reviewed and approved by the Legislative Council upon an affirmative vote of  
9 three-fourths (3/4) of the members present when a quorum is present.

10  
11

12 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 10-3-309(f), concerning a vote not to  
13 approve a state agency rule, is amended to read as follows:

14 (f)(1) A committee or subcommittee under this section may vote to not  
15 approve a rule under this section only if the rule is inconsistent with:

- 16 (A) State or federal law; or
- 17 (B) Legislative intent.

18 (2) A committee or subcommittee under this section voting not to  
19 approve a rule under this section shall state the grounds under subdivision  
20 (f)(1) of this section when not approving a rule.

21 (3) A committee or subcommittee under this section considering a  
22 rule submitted in accordance with Arkansas Code § 20-7-604(d)(2)(D),  
23 concerning exemptions from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, is not  
24 required to state the grounds required under subdivision (f)(1) when not  
25 approving a rule.

26

27 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 17-82-208, concerning the rules and  
28 regulations of the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners, is amended to  
29 add an additional subsection to read as follows:

30 (e) The board shall promulgate rules limiting the amount of Schedule  
31 II narcotics that may be prescribed and dispensed by licensees of the board.

32

33 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203, concerning the powers and duties  
34 of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing, is amended to add an additional  
35 subdivision to read as follows:

36 (21) Promulgate rules limiting the amount of Schedule II

1 narcotics that may be prescribed and dispensed by licensees of the board.

2  
3 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 17-90-204, concerning the powers and  
4 duties of the State Board of Optometry, is amended to add an additional  
5 subdivision to read as follows:

6 (8) Promulgate rules limiting the amount of Schedule II  
7 narcotics that may be prescribed and dispensed by licensees of the board.

8  
9 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 17-92-205, concerning the rules and  
10 regulations of the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy, is amended to add an  
11 additional subsection to read as follows:

12 (d) The board shall promulgate rules limiting the amount of Schedule  
13 II narcotics that may be dispensed by licensees of the board.

14  
15 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 17-101-203, concerning the powers and  
16 duties of the Veterinary Medical Examining Board, is amended to add an  
17 additional subdivision to read as follows:

18 (12) Promulgate rules limiting the amount of Schedule II  
19 narcotics that may be prescribed and dispensed by licensees of the board.

20  
21 /s/J. Hutchinson

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24 **APPROVED: 04/03/2017**