

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S2/20/17 S3/9/17 S3/13/17 S3/14/17 S3/15/17*
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91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

SENATE BILL 339

By: Senator J. Hutchinson
By: Representative Hammer

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING
PROGRAM TO MANDATE PRESCRIBERS CHECK THE
PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM WHEN
PRESCRIBING CERTAIN MEDICATIONS.

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

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

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

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

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

(ii) A benzodiazepine medication for the first time
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.

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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.

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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.

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21 /s/J. Hutchinson

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