

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

2 91st General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2017

SENATE BILL 339

4
5 By: Senator J. Hutchinson

6 By: Representative Hammer

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (B) A licensing board that licenses practitioners who have



1 the authority to prescribe shall adopt rules requiring the practitioners to
2 check the information in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program as
3 described in subdivision (d)(2) of this section.

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

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

7 (a) Immediately before or during surgery;

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

10 (c) In a healthcare facility; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32
33 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 20-7-607(a)(1), concerning providing
34 prescription monitoring information to the Prescription Drug Monitoring
35 Program, is amended to read as follows:

36 (a)(1)(A)(i) The Department of Health ~~may~~ shall review the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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35 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 20-7-605(c), concerning the membership of
36 the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Advisory Committee, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (c) The committee shall consist of:

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

5 (A) The Arkansas Academy of Physician Assistants;

6 (B) The Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police;

7 (C) The Arkansas Drug Director;

8 (D) The Arkansas Medical Society;

9 (E) The Arkansas Nurses Association;

10 (F) The Arkansas Optometric Association;

11 (G) The Arkansas Osteopathic Medical Association;

12 (H) The Arkansas Pharmacists Association;

13 (I) The Arkansas Podiatric Medical Association;

14 (J) The Arkansas Prosecuting Attorneys Association;

15 (K) The Arkansas Sheriffs' Association;

16 (L) The Arkansas State Dental Association;

17 (M) The Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association;

18 (N) The State Board of Health; and

19 (O) The Arkansas Public Defender Commission;

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

22 (3) One (1) consumer appointed by the Governor;

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

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

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

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

34

35 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 10-3-309(c), concerning the review and
36 approval of proposed state agency rules by the Legislative Council, is

1 amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 *(A) State or federal law; or*

16 *(B) Legislative intent.*

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

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

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26 */s/J. Hutchinson*
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