



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 319 of the 131st G.A.

Date: May 10, 2016

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Sen. Eklund

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Opiate overdose treatment, pharmacy technician licensing, and Pharmacy Board operations

State Fiscal Highlights

- The annual operating expenses of the State Board of Pharmacy will increase by an uncertain degree to register and regulate approximately 42,000 registered pharmacy technicians, certified pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician trainees plus approximately 1,000 additional licensed office-based opioid treatment facilities.
- The fees to be collected by the State Board of Pharmacy are estimated to generate between \$1.2 million and \$2.3 million in the first year and will be deposited in the state's existing Fund 4K90, the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund. Most of the money needed to cover the Board's annual operating expenses is appropriated from this fund.
- The State Medical Board could experience an increase in costs to take certain disciplinary actions if a certificate holder is found to practice at or own a facility or clinic subject to licensure as a category III terminal distributor of dangerous drugs with an office-based opioid treatment classification. Any increase will depend on the number of disciplinary actions taken. However, certain disciplinary actions could result in some fine revenues being collected.
- Violations of the bill's minor misdemeanor prohibition against the dispensing of an opioid analgesic under certain circumstances may generate, at most, a minimal amount of locally collected court cost revenue annually for deposit into the Indigent Defense Support Fund (Fund 5DY0) and the Victims of Crime/Reparations Fund (Fund 4020).

Local Fiscal Highlights

- Pharmacists and terminal distributors of dangerous drugs will generally comply with the bill's minor misdemeanor prohibition against the dispensing of an opioid analgesic under certain circumstances, making violations infrequent. It is likely that revenues collected from violators (fines, court costs, and fees) will offset to some

degree the costs that counties and municipalities incur to process minor misdemeanors.

- A local board of health could experience an increase in administrative costs if it chooses to establish a naloxone distribution or administration protocol or to authorize individuals to furnish or administer naloxone.
- A county board of health that currently receives state grant funding to enhance naloxone access across the state can also, as a result of the bill, use grant funds to provide naloxone through a Project DAWN Program within the county under certain conditions.¹

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

State Board of Pharmacy

Pharmacy technician licensing

The bill requires pharmacy technicians to register with the State Pharmacy Board, establishes a process for those registrations, and creates three professional registration categories: registered pharmacy technician, certified pharmacy technician and pharmacy technician trainee. The Board is required to adopt rules governing registration and regulation of pharmacy technicians. Pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees who violate those rules will be subject to the Board's disciplinary procedures.²

To process and regulate what they estimate to be over 42,000 new registrations, the Board will need to hire additional licensing and compliance staff and at least one hearing officer. The Board's annual costs to register and regulate pharmacy technicians are not known, but increased revenues noted immediately below may offset part, and potentially all of the expense increase depending on staffing and resource costs which are not accurately known at this time.

Applicants for registration as a registered or certified pharmacy technician are required to pay a \$50 fee and applicants for registration as a pharmacy technician trainee are required to pay a \$25 fee. All registrants are required to pay a renewal fee at a time and cost to be determined by the Board. Based on the Board's estimate of over 42,000 new registrants, the total amount of money that could be generated in the first

¹ Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone) is a community-based overdose education and naloxone distribution program.

² The disciplinary actions the Board of Pharmacy may take include revoking, suspending, or limiting the pharmacy technician or trainee's registration; placing the pharmacy technician or trainee's registration on probation; refusing to grant or renew the pharmacy technician or trainee's registration; or imposing a monetary penalty or forfeiture not to exceed \$500. Any forfeiture collected would be deposited to the credit of Fund 4K90, the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund.

year by these fees will be in the range of \$1.1 million to \$2.1 million. The money generated from these fees will be deposited in the state's existing Fund 4K90, the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund. Most of the money needed to cover the Board's annual operating expenses is appropriated from this fund.

Operations generally

The bill permits the Board: (1) to keep electronic books to include records of its proceedings, and a register of all identification cards, licenses and registrations granted, renewed, suspended, or revoked, (2) to adopt rules requiring reporting of violations of state and federal laws, and (3) to hire one or more attorneys at law to serve as hearing examiners. These examiners may hear and consider evidence and send findings to the Board for a final decision in an administrative hearing.

Opioid prescription limitations

The bill prohibits pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and terminal distributors of dangerous drugs from dispensing an opioid analgesic in an amount greater than a 90-day supply (based on prescription instructions) and from dispensing an opioid analgesic for any prescription older than 30 days. A violation of that prohibition is a minor misdemeanor. Under current law, unchanged by the bill, law enforcement can only issue a citation for a minor misdemeanor; the person being cited generally cannot be arrested. If the person pays the associated fine of up to \$150, court costs, and fees, that person is in effect pleading guilty and waiving the requirement that they make a court appearance.

Presumably, once the bill's prohibition is enacted, pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and terminal distributors will discontinue dispensing opioid analgesics in a way that would violate the prohibition. Most violations will be first-time offenders and subsequent violations will be relatively few in number.

The amount of locally collected state court costs that might be forwarded to the state treasury annually is likely to be no more than minimal. The state court costs for a misdemeanor conviction generally total \$29, with \$20 of that amount being deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the Indigent Defense Support Fund (Fund 5DY0) and the remainder, or \$9, being credited to the Victims of Crime/Reparations Fund (Fund 4020).

The time and cost to process a minor misdemeanor is relatively low, with most persons cited typically opting to pay the fine, court costs, and fees, and waive a court appearance. This likely means that in many cases the fines, court costs, and fees collected will offset some, if not all, of the cost associated with processing citations.

Office-based opioid treatment classification

The bill requires any facility which provides office-based opioid treatment to more than 30 patients to hold a category III terminal distributor of dangerous drugs license with an office-based opioid treatment classification. The Board estimates that just over 1,000 facilities statewide will require licensing, including paying a fee of

\$150 annually. The additional amount of money that will be generated annually from the fee is estimated at \$150,000 and will be deposited in Fund 4K90.

The Board is required to adopt rules to administer this section and is authorized to impose a fine of up to \$5,000 per day of violation on any person who operates an office-based opioid treatment facility without the proper licensing or fails to remain in compliance with other statutory requirements. The amount of fine that may be generated annually for deposit in Fund 4K90 is uncertain.

Community addiction services

The bill permits the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) to waive the requirement that a community addiction services provider be fully certified by OMHAS for at least two years prior to the application for licensure to maintain methadone treatment if it receives a written statement from the applicant explaining the need for the waiver. According to OMHAS, waiving this requirement should have no fiscal effect.

The bill permits a community addiction services provider providing services for a drug court in the Medication-Assisted Treatment Drug Court Program For Specialized Docket Programs to provide access to time-limited recovery supports.

State Medical Board

The bill requires the State Medical Board, by an affirmative vote of at least six of its members, to limit, revoke, or suspend an individual's certificate to practice; refuse to issue a certificate to an individual, refuse to renew a certificate; refuse to reinstate a certificate; or reprimand or place on probation the holder of a certificate if the certificate holder is found by the Board to practice at or own a facility, clinic, or other location that is subject to licensure as a category III terminal distributor of dangerous drugs with an office-based opioid treatment classification unless the person operating that place has obtained and maintains the license with the classification. The Board may experience an increase in costs to take disciplinary action. Any increase will depend on the number of disciplinary actions taken. However, certain disciplinary actions could result in some fine revenues being collected.

Naloxone exemption

Under the bill, an individual who is an employee, volunteer, or contractor of a public or private entity that provides services to individuals who may be at risk of an opioid-related overdose³ and has been authorized to administer naloxone to a person who is apparently experiencing such an overdose is exempt from civil damages, criminal prosecution, or disciplinary action based on the administration of naloxone.

³ Such entities include colleges, universities, schools, local health departments, addiction treatment facilities, halfway houses, prisons, jails, community residential centers, homeless shelters, or similar locations.

Naloxone protocol

The bill specifies that a board of health, through a physician serving as the board's health commissioner or medical director, may establish a protocol for personally furnishing naloxone. The bill specifies what must be included in the protocol. Additionally, the bill specifies that a board that establishes a naloxone distribution protocol may, through a physician serving as the board's health commissioner or medical director, authorize one or more individuals to personally furnish a supply of naloxone pursuant to the protocol to certain individuals. The bill also specifies that an authorized individual may personally furnish naloxone to an individual as long as certain conditions are met, including completion of training required under the established naloxone distribution protocol.

Additionally, the bill specifies that a board of health that has established a naloxone administration protocol may authorize an individual who is an employee, volunteer, or contractor of a service entity to administer naloxone to an individual who is apparently experiencing an opioid-related overdose. These individuals may administer naloxone if certain conditions are met.

The bill also permits a physician who has established a naloxone administration protocol to authorize an individual who is an employee, volunteer, or contractor of a service entity to administer naloxone to an individual who is apparently experiencing an opioid-related overdose if certain conditions are met.

The bill specifies that a board of health is not liable for damages in any civil action for any act or omission of the individual to whom the naloxone is furnished. The bill also specifies certain individuals under the bill are not liable for or subject to damages in any civil action, prosecution in any criminal proceeding, or professional disciplinary action related to the administration of naloxone.

A local board of health could experience an increase in administrative costs to establish a naloxone distribution or administration protocol and to authorize individuals to furnish or administer naloxone. However, the provision is permissive, so any costs would be due to a board's decision to establish such a protocol.

County boards of health – grant funds

In Am. Sub. H.B. 64 of the 131st General Assembly, up to \$500,000 of GRF line item 336504, Community Innovations, is to be allocated by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services in each of FYs 2016 and 2017 to enhance naloxone access across the state for county health departments to disburse through a grant program to local law enforcement, emergency personnel, and first responders. The bill permits the county health department to use grant funding to provide naloxone through a Project DAWN Program within the county if these entities are not making use of the naloxone grant.