



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

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H.B. 659

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Brown, Patterson, Boggs

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires a licensed terminal distributor of dangerous drugs to notify a purchaser of a prescription drug at retail of the availability of a prescription drug reader and to make the reader available on request.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

Prescription drug readers

A "prescription reader" is a device that audibly conveys the information that is required to be contained on a prescription label for a patient who is visually impaired or otherwise would have difficulty reading the label. The information to be audibly conveyed includes any cautions required by federal and state law, as well as information regarding drug interactions, contraindications, and side effects that are provided to sighted patients and patients who have no difficulty reading a label.¹

Prior to selling a prescription drug at retail, the bill requires a licensed terminal distributor of dangerous drugs,² such as a pharmacy, to notify the person purchasing

¹ R.C. 4729.47(D)(4).

² A "terminal distributor of dangerous drugs" is a person who is engaged in the sale of dangerous drugs at retail, or any person, other than a manufacturer, repackager, outsourcing facility, third-party logistics provider, wholesale distributor, or pharmacist, who has possession, custody, or control of dangerous drugs for any purpose other than for that person's own use and consumption. Examples of terminal distributors include pharmacies, hospitals, nursing homes, and laboratories. R.C. 4729.47(D)(3) (citing R.C. 4729.01(Q), not in the bill).

the drug that a prescription reader can be made available. If the person requests the reader, the terminal distributor must provide one for the duration of the prescription.³

The bill provides that its requirements do not apply when:

(1) A drug is personally furnished by a prescriber;

(2) The licensed terminal distributor dispensing the drug is any of the following: a pharmacy dispensing a drug as part of Ohio's existing drug repository program; a pharmacy in a jail, state or federal correctional institution, or juvenile detention facility; a pharmacy operated by a government entity; or an institutional pharmacy.⁴

The bill defines "institutional pharmacy" as a pharmacy that is part of, or operated in conjunction with, any of the following health care facilities: a hospital, ambulatory surgical facility, nursing home, residential care facility, freestanding rehabilitation facility, hospice care program, home and community-based services provider, residential facility for individuals with mental illness or developmental disabilities, or any similar health care facility. It specifically includes (1) a pharmacy on the premises of a health care facility that provides a system of distributing and supplying medication to the facility or its patients, whether or not operated by the facility, and (2) a pharmacy off the premises of a health care facility that provides services only to patients of one or more health care facilities.⁵

The bill specifies that it does not affect any law relative to labeling requirements for drugs.⁶ Existing federal and state laws and regulations address what must be included on prescription drug labels.⁷

HISTORY

ACTION

DATE

Introduced

05-15-18

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³ R.C. 4729.47(A).

⁴ R.C. 4729.47(B).

⁵ R.C. 4729.47(D)(2).

⁶ R.C. 4729.47(C).

⁷ See, e.g., 21 Code of Federal Regulations Part 201; Ohio Administrative Code 4729-5-16.

