
DIGEST

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HB 284 Original

2019 Regular Session

Abraham

Abstract: Institutes certain requirements for medical practitioners and pharmacists relative to prescribing and dispensing of opioid drugs.

Present law provides, with certain exceptions, that when issuing a first-time opioid prescription for outpatient use to a patient with an acute condition, a medical practitioner shall not issue a prescription for more than a seven-day supply of the opioid drug.

Present law authorizes a medical practitioner to prescribe more than a seven-day supply of an opioid drug if, in his professional medical judgment, more than a seven-day supply is necessary to treat the patient's condition. Requires that the condition necessitating more than a seven-day supply be documented in the patient's medical record, and that the practitioner indicate that a nonopioid alternative was not appropriate to address the patient's condition.

Proposed law retains present law and adds thereto a requirement that any practitioner who writes a prescription for more than a seven-day supply of an opioid, as authorized in present law, shall clearly indicate on the prescription order all of the following:

- (1) The quantity of the opioid needed to treat the patient's condition.
- (2) That the prescription is not subject to the seven-day limit on the supply of an opioid provided in present law.

Proposed law provides that failure by a practitioner to comply with the requirements of proposed law shall be deemed unauthorized practice and a violation of the practitioner's practice standard, and shall subject the practitioner to disciplinary action by the health profession licensing board which issues his license.

Present law authorizes a pharmacist filling a prescription for an opioid to dispense the drug in an amount less than the recommended full quantity indicated on the prescription if requested by the patient.

Proposed law retains present law and stipulates that if the patient does not request that his prescription for an opioid be dispensed in an amount less than the recommended full quantity indicated on the prescription, then the pharmacist shall dispense to the patient the full quantity indicated on the prescription. Provides that failure by a pharmacist to comply with this requirement shall subject the pharmacist to disciplinary action by the La. Board of Pharmacy. Stipulates,

however, that this requirement shall not apply when a pharmacist limits the quantity of a controlled substance he dispenses as authorized or required by federal regulations relative to prescriptions (21 CFR 1306.01 et seq.).

(Amends R.S. 40:978(G)(2) and (H)(2)(a))