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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

S.B. 59  
133rd General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Antonio

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### Summary

- Requires the State Board of Pharmacy to develop a program to educate its license holders and others about the authority of pharmacists and pharmacy interns to dispense naloxone without a prescription.

### Detailed Analysis

#### Naloxone education program

The drug naloxone, commonly known by the brand name Narcan, can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.<sup>1</sup> Current law authorizes pharmacists and pharmacy interns to dispense naloxone without a prescription pursuant to a protocol established by the State Board of Pharmacy (see “**Naloxone access without a prescription**,” below).<sup>2</sup>

The bill requires the Board to develop a program to educate the following individuals about the authority of pharmacists and pharmacy interns to dispense naloxone without a prescription:

- Holders of licenses issued by the Board;
- Registered pharmacy technicians and certified pharmacy technicians registered by the Board;
- Other individuals who are employed by license holders.<sup>3</sup>

As part of the program, the Board also must educate the license holders, pharmacy technicians, and employees about (1) maintaining an adequate supply of naloxone and

<sup>1</sup> U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, *Naloxone Injection*, available at <<https://medlineplus.gov/druginfo/meds/a612022.html>>.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4729.44(B).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 4729.44(H).

(2) methods for determining a pharmacy's naloxone stock. The bill authorizes the Board to use its website to share information under the program.

### **Naloxone access without a prescription**

Current law maintained by the bill allows a physician or local board of health to authorize one or more pharmacists and pharmacy interns to dispense naloxone without a prescription in accordance with a protocol established by the Board.<sup>4</sup> Under this law, the pharmacist or intern may dispense naloxone without a prescription to either of the following:

- An individual who there is reason to believe is experiencing or at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose;
- A family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist such an individual.

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### **History**

Action	Date
Introduced	02-21-19

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<sup>4</sup> R.C. 3707.56, not in the bill, 4729.44(B), and 4731.942, not in the bill.