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S.B. 59
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Antonio

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SUMMARY

- Requires the State Board of Pharmacy to develop a program to educate certain 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.¹ 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).²

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 that engage in the sale or dispensing of naloxone without a prescription;
- Registered pharmacy technicians, certified pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician trainees registered by the Board who engage in the sale or dispensing of naloxone without a prescription;

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

² R.C. 4729.44(B).

- Other individuals who are employed by license holders that engage in the sale or dispensing of naloxone without a prescription.³

As part of the program, the Board also must educate the license holders, pharmacy technicians, and employees that engage in the sale or dispensing of naloxone without a prescription about (1) maintaining an adequate supply of naloxone and (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.⁴ 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.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-21-19
Reported, S. Health, Human Services & Medicaid	10-10-19

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³ R.C. 4729.44(H).

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