

**HB 1553-S - DIGEST**

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Finds that prescription drug abuse has been on the rise and that often dispensers and prescribing providers are unaware of prescriptions provided by others both in and out of state.

Declares an intent to establish an electronic database available in real time to dispensers and prescribers of controlled substances. And further, that the department in as much as possible should establish a common dataset with other sets of other states.

Requires the department to seek federal grants to support the activities described in this act. As state and federal funds are available, the department shall develop and implement the prescription monitoring program. The department may not require a practitioner or a pharmacist to pay a fee or tax specifically dedicated to the operation of the system.

Requires the department to report to the legislature on the implementation of this act by December 1, 2009.

Provides that a dispenser who knowingly fails to submit prescription monitoring information to the department as required by this act or knowingly submits incorrect prescription information is subject to disciplinary action under chapter 18.130 RCW.

Provides that a person authorized to have prescription monitoring information under this act who knowingly discloses such information in violation of this act is subject to civil penalty.

Provides that a person authorized to have prescription monitoring information under this act who uses such information in a manner or for a purpose in violation of this act is subject to civil penalty.

Provides that, in accordance with HIPPA, any physician or pharmacist authorized to access a patient's prescription monitoring may discuss or release that information to other health care providers involved with the patient in order to provide safe and appropriate care coordination.