
HOUSE BILL 2501

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Caldier, Slatter, Cody, Harris, Jinkins, Eslick,
and Tharinger

Read first time 01/10/18. Referred to Committee on Health Care &
Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to facilitating access to the prescription
2 monitoring program; and reenacting and amending RCW 70.225.020.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.225.020 and 2013 c 36 s 2 and 2013 c 19 s 126 are
5 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The department shall establish and maintain a prescription
7 monitoring program to monitor the prescribing and dispensing of all
8 Schedules II, III, IV, and V controlled substances and any additional
9 drugs identified by the pharmacy quality assurance commission as
10 demonstrating a potential for abuse by all professionals licensed to
11 prescribe or dispense such substances in this state. The program
12 shall be designed to improve health care quality and effectiveness by
13 reducing abuse of controlled substances, reducing duplicative
14 prescribing and overprescribing of controlled substances, and
15 improving controlled substance prescribing practices with the intent
16 of eventually establishing an electronic database available in real
17 time to dispensers and prescribers of controlled substances. As much
18 as possible, the department should establish a common database with
19 other states. This program's management and operations shall be
20 funded entirely from the funds in the account established under RCW
21 74.09.215. Nothing in this chapter prohibits voluntary contributions

1 from private individuals and business entities as defined under Title
2 23, 23B, 24, or 25 RCW to assist in funding the prescription
3 monitoring program.

4 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, each
5 dispenser shall submit to the department by electronic means
6 information regarding each prescription dispensed for a drug included
7 under subsection (1) of this section. Drug prescriptions for more
8 than one day use should be reported. The information submitted for
9 each prescription shall include, but not be limited to:

- 10 (a) Patient identifier;
- 11 (b) Drug dispensed;
- 12 (c) Date of dispensing;
- 13 (d) Quantity dispensed;
- 14 (e) Prescriber; and
- 15 (f) Dispenser.

16 (3) Each dispenser shall submit the information in accordance
17 with transmission methods established by the department.

18 (4) The data submission requirements of subsections (1) through
19 (3) of this section do not apply to:

20 (a) Medications provided to patients receiving inpatient services
21 provided at hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW; or patients
22 of such hospitals receiving services at the clinics, day surgery
23 areas, or other settings within the hospital's license where the
24 medications are administered in single doses;

25 (b) Pharmacies operated by the department of corrections for the
26 purpose of providing medications to offenders in department of
27 corrections institutions who are receiving pharmaceutical services
28 from a department of corrections pharmacy, except that the department
29 of corrections must submit data related to each offender's current
30 prescriptions for controlled substances upon the offender's release
31 from a department of corrections institution; or

32 (c) Veterinarians licensed under chapter 18.92 RCW. The
33 department, in collaboration with the veterinary board of governors,
34 shall establish alternative data reporting requirements for
35 veterinarians that allow veterinarians to report:

- 36 (i) By either electronic or nonelectronic methods;
- 37 (ii) Only those data elements that are relevant to veterinary
38 practices and necessary to accomplish the public protection goals of
39 this chapter; and

1 (iii) No more frequently than once every three months and no less
2 frequently than once every six months.

3 (5) By January 1, 2020, the department shall require that the
4 prescription monitoring program database be compatible with all
5 federally certified electronic health record technologies.

6 (6) The department shall provide technical assistance to health
7 care providers and health facilities attempting to access the
8 prescription monitoring program. Technical assistance must be
9 provided in the form of community meetings and seminars, outreach to
10 professional associations, telephonic or electronic consultation, and
11 other methods of disseminating information. The department may either
12 operate the technical assistance program directly or through a
13 contract with another entity, as provided under RCW 70.225.050.

14 (7) The department shall continue to seek federal grants to
15 support the activities described in chapter 259, Laws of 2007. The
16 department may not require a practitioner or a pharmacist to pay a
17 fee or tax specifically dedicated to the operation and management of
18 the system.

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