

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5381

**AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE,
FEBRUARY 14, 1991**

Brief Description: Allowing a veterinarian to dispense legend drugs prescribed by another veterinarian.

SPONSORS: Senators West, Gaspard, Bailey, Hansen, Bauer and L. Smith.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5381 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators West, Chairman; L. Smith, Vice Chairman; Amondson, Johnson, L. Kreidler, Niemi, and Wojahn.

Staff: Scott Plack (786-7409)

Hearing Dates: February 12, 1991; February 14, 1991

BACKGROUND:

The state Board of Pharmacy currently prohibits one Washington licensed veterinarian from filling a legend drug prescribed by another Washington licensed veterinarian. The board considers this activity the practice of pharmacy. A veterinarian must personally examine the animal before prescribing any legend drug. While consumers may have the option of having the prescription filled at a licensed pharmacy, many pharmacies often do not stock the types of animal treatment drugs involved. If a consumer is unable to return to the original veterinarian who wrote the prescription he or she must have the animal re-examined by a second veterinarian who can then prescribe the legend drug. This second examination adds to the cost of treating the animal.

SUMMARY:

Veterinarians are permitted to fill prescriptions for legend drugs issued by another veterinarian. The dispensing of such drugs shall be limited to no more than 5 percent of the total proportion of dosage units dispensed annually by the dispensing veterinarian. The dispensing veterinarian is required to maintain records of these dispensing activities.

EFFECT OF PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE:

Veterinarian legend drugs are defined in the bill.

Appropriation: none

Revenue: none

Fiscal Note: none requested

TESTIMONY FOR:

The bill makes it easier for consumers to have veterinarian legend drug prescriptions filled.

TESTIMONY AGAINST: None

TESTIFIED: PRO: Greg Hanon, Brian Albers, WA Veterinary Med. Assoc.; Lars Hennem, Pharmacists of WA; Don Williams, Pharmacy Board