



HB 91: VETERINARIAN EXEMPTION FROM PDMP

REPRESENTATIVE WOOL

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BACKGROUND: THE PDMP PROGRAM

- PDMP: Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
- Alaska's PDMP was established by SB 196 in 2008
- In reaction to growing opioid epidemic, the PDMP was amended in 2017 via HB 159 from Governor Walker to include veterinary participation requirements
- PDMP reporting is required for all actively licensed practitioners who hold a Federal Drug Enforcement Agency registration number and who dispense federally scheduled II-IV controlled substances in the state

BACKGROUND: PREVIOUS VERSION OF HB 91



- HB 184 was introduced by Rep. Tammie Wilson in the previous Legislature; later carried by Rep. Dave Talerico
- Had a hearing in HSS prior to adjournment of the 2020 session due to COVID
- A petition of support for veterinary PDMP exemptions gained over 1,000 Alaskan signatures of support
- AK Veterinary Medical Association (AKVMA), the Board of Veterinary Examiners (BOVE), and veterinary practices across the state remain in strong support

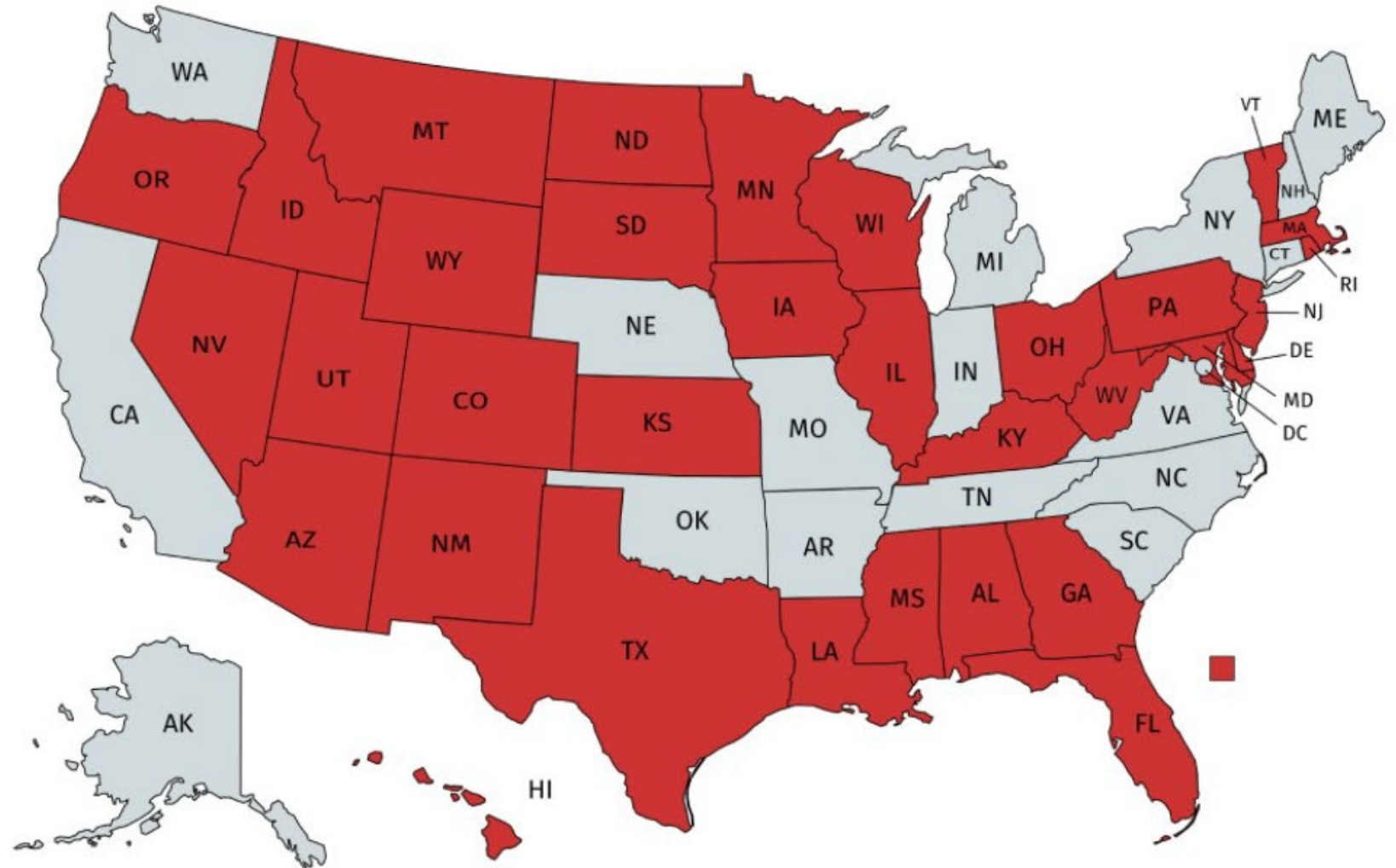
VET SHOPPING: IS THIS A PROBLEM?



- Vet shopping is the practice of soliciting veterinarians for prescription medications
- A 2014 review of Prescription Monitoring Drug Programs found less than 10 veterinary shoppers nationwide
- There have been no identified cases of veterinary shopping in Alaska
- There is a natural barrier to vet shopping since costs for veterinary care are paid up front by the pet owner

STATE BY STATE COMPARISON ON PDMP REPORTING

- 34 states (shown in red) do not require a dispensing veterinary practice to report to the state PDMP
- West Virginia just passed legislation
- Currently, Illinois is considering legislation to exempt vets



GOALS OF HB 91



**ALLOWS THE PDMP TO WORK
AS DESIGNED TO COMBAT
HUMAN OPIOID ABUSE**



**REFLECTS CURRENT OPIOID
PRESCRIPTION REALTIES FOR
VETERINARY PRACTICE**



**PROTECTS THE PRIVACY OF
HUMAN PATIENTS AND
REDUCES COSTS OF
VETERINARY CARE**

GOAL #1: ALLOW THE PDMP TO WORK AS DESIGNED

The PDMP is designed to combat human opioid abuse, HOWEVER:

- Unlike humans, animals do not have a unique identifier or human owner
- Unlike humans, animals can change names, birthdays, or ownership
- There is no Medicaid for animals and owners pay up front for each visit
- Veterinary data in the PDMP is not easily interpreted and can complicate effective use of the PDMP for all participants
- Veterinarians are not trained in human medication-including timing and dosage amounts
- Animals cannot falsely represent pain or injuries that may require opioids



GOAL #2: REFLECT CURRENT OPIOID PRESCRIPTION REALITIES

Veterinarians can prescribe opioids to their animal patients, HOWEVER:

- Opioid medications prescribed by veterinarians represented only 0.34% of total opioid prescriptions in 2017
- The drugs contributing to the opioid crisis are not the drugs used most often in veterinary medicine
- Animal doses cannot be standardized in Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME's) the same as human medications



GOAL #3: PROTECT PRIVACY AND REDUCE COSTS OF CARE

There are human privacy concerns related to participation in the PDMP program, SUCH AS:

- In order to prescribe or dispense a controlled substance to an animal, an owner's medical information must be queried
- Most owners are unaware that their own prescription information is available to their veterinarian
- Some of the drugs prescribed to human patients that can be viewed by veterinarians include:
 - Hormones
 - Behavioral health medications
 - Steroids
 - Substance abuse treatment medications



GOAL #3 CONT.: PROTECT PRIVACY AND REDUCE COSTS OF CARE

There are added costs to veterinary practices and animal owners that come from PDMP participation:

- The number of investigations for administrative/technical errors in using the PDMP have skyrocketed in recent years and strain the budget of the Board of Veterinary Examiners
- Investigative costs for the Board of Veterinary Examiners are passed onto BOVE licensees- and to pet owners who typically do not have pet health insurance
- The state has a shortage of veterinarians and some of the highest licensing fees in the nation, discouraging veterinary practice in Alaska



ALTERNATIVES TO MANDATORY VETERINARY PARTICIPATION IN PDMP

- Continued education for veterinarians on avoiding opioid prescription misuse
- Research on the prevalence of veterinary shopping and its relation to the opioid epidemic
- Appropriate outreach to DEA officials if there is suspected diversion of controlled substances, which is currently required in Federal law





QUESTIONS?