

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 316(L&C)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/8/08

Referred: Judiciary, Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES RAMRAS, Chenault

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to establishing a controlled substance prescription database."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **\* Section 1.** AS 08.80.030(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) In order to fulfill its responsibilities, the board has the powers necessary  
5 for implementation and enforcement of this chapter, including the power to

6 (1) elect a president and secretary from its membership and adopt rules  
7 for the conduct of its business;

8 (2) license by examination or by license transfer the applicants who are  
9 qualified to engage in the practice of pharmacy;

10 (3) assist the department in inspections and investigations for  
11 violations of this chapter, or of any other state or federal statute relating to the practice  
12 of pharmacy;

13 (4) adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

14 (5) establish and enforce compliance with professional standards and  
15 rules of conduct for pharmacists engaged in the practice of pharmacy;

1 (6) determine standards for recognition and approval of degree  
2 programs of schools and colleges of pharmacy whose graduates shall be eligible for  
3 licensure in this state, including the specification and enforcement of requirements for  
4 practical training, including internships;

5 (7) establish for pharmacists and pharmacies minimum specifications  
6 for the physical facilities, technical equipment, personnel, and procedures for the  
7 storage, compounding, and dispensing of drugs or related devices, and for the  
8 monitoring of drug therapy;

9 (8) enforce the provisions of this chapter relating to the conduct or  
10 competence of pharmacists practicing in the state, and the suspension, revocation, or  
11 restriction of licenses to engage in the practice of pharmacy;

12 (9) license and regulate the training, qualifications, and employment of  
13 pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians;

14 (10) issue licenses to persons engaged in the manufacture and  
15 distribution of drugs and related devices;

16 **(11) establish and maintain a controlled substance prescription**  
17 **database as provided in AS 17.30.200.**

18 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 17.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

19 **Article 4A. Controlled Substance Prescription Database.**

20 **Sec. 17.30.200. Controlled substance prescription database.** (a) The  
21 controlled substance prescription database is established in the Board of Pharmacy.  
22 The purpose of the database is to contain data as described in this section regarding  
23 every prescription for a schedule IA, IIA, IIIA, IVA, or VA controlled substance under  
24 state law or a schedule I, II, III, IV, or V controlled substance under federal law  
25 dispensed in the state to a person other than an inpatient in a licensed health care  
26 facility. The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development  
27 shall assist the board and provide necessary staff and equipment to implement this  
28 section.

29 (b) The pharmacist-in-charge of each licensed or registered pharmacy,  
30 regarding each schedule IA, IIA, IIIA, IVA, or VA controlled substance under state  
31 law or a schedule I, II, III, IV, or V controlled substance under federal law dispensed

1 by a pharmacist under the supervision of the pharmacist-in-charge, and each  
 2 practitioner who directly dispenses a schedule IA, IIA, IIIA, IVA, or VA controlled  
 3 substance under state law or a schedule I, II, III, IV, or V controlled substance under  
 4 federal law other than those dispensed for an inpatient at a health care facility, shall  
 5 submit to the board, by a procedure and in a format established by the board, the  
 6 following information for inclusion in the database:

7 (1) the name of the prescribing practitioner and the practitioner's  
 8 federal Drug Enforcement Administration registration number or other appropriate  
 9 identifier;

10 (2) the date of the prescription;

11 (3) the date the prescription was filled and the method of payment;

12 (4) the name and address of the person for whom the prescription was  
 13 written;

14 (5) the name and national drug code of the controlled substance;

15 (6) the quantity and strength of the controlled substance prescribed or  
 16 dispensed;

17 (7) the name of the drug outlet dispensing the controlled substance;  
 18 and

19 (8) the name of the pharmacist or practitioner dispensing the controlled  
 20 substance and other appropriate identifying information.

21 (c) The board shall maintain the database in an electronic file or by other  
 22 means established by the board to facilitate use of the database for identification of

23 (1) prescribing practices and patterns of prescribing and dispensing  
 24 controlled substances;

25 (2) practitioners who prescribe controlled substances in an  
 26 unprofessional or unlawful manner;

27 (3) individuals who receive prescriptions for controlled substances  
 28 from licensed practitioners and who subsequently obtain dispensed controlled  
 29 substances from a drug outlet in quantities or with a frequency inconsistent with  
 30 generally recognized standards of dosage for that controlled substance; and

31 (4) individuals who present forged or otherwise false or altered

1 prescriptions for controlled substances to a pharmacy.

2 (d) The database and the information contained within the database are  
3 confidential, are not public records, and are not subject to public disclosure. The board  
4 shall undertake to ensure the security and confidentiality of the database and the  
5 information contained within the database. The board may allow access to the  
6 database only to the following persons, and in accordance with the limitations  
7 provided and regulations of the board:

8 (1) personnel of the board regarding inquiries concerning licensees or  
9 registrants of the board or personnel of another board or agency regarding license  
10 inquiries concerning a practitioner;

11 (2) authorized board personnel or contractors as required for  
12 operational and review purposes;

13 (3) a licensed practitioner having authority to prescribe controlled  
14 substances, to the extent the information relates specifically to a current patient of the  
15 practitioner to whom the practitioner is prescribing or considering prescribing a  
16 controlled substance;

17 (4) a licensed or registered pharmacist having authority to dispense  
18 controlled substances, to the extent the information relates specifically to a current  
19 patient to whom the pharmacist is dispensing or considering dispensing a controlled  
20 substance;

21 (5) federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities may receive  
22 printouts of information contained in the database pursuant to a search warrant,  
23 subpoena, or order issued by a court establishing probable cause for the access and use  
24 of the information; and

25 (6) an individual who is the recipient of a controlled substance  
26 prescription entered into the database may receive information contained in the  
27 database concerning the individual on providing evidence satisfactory to the board that  
28 the individual requesting the information is in fact the person about whom the data  
29 entry was made and on payment of a fee set by the board under AS 37.10.050 that  
30 does not exceed \$10.

31 (e) The failure of a pharmacist-in-charge, pharmacist, or practitioner to submit

1 information to the database as required under this section is grounds for the board to  
2 take disciplinary action against the license or registration of the pharmacy or  
3 pharmacist or for another licensing board to take disciplinary action against a  
4 practitioner.

5 (f) The board may enter into agreements with tribal and military dispensers  
6 and practitioners in this state to submit information to and access information in the  
7 database subject to this section and the regulations of the board.

8 (g) The board shall notify the president of the senate and the speaker of the  
9 house of representatives if, at any time after the effective date of this Act, the federal  
10 government fails to pay the costs of the controlled substance prescription database.

11 (h) An individual who has submitted information to the database in  
12 accordance with this section may not be held civilly liable for having submitted the  
13 information. Nothing in this section requires or obligates a dispenser or practitioner to  
14 access or check the database before dispensing, prescribing, or administering a  
15 medication, or providing medical care to a person. Dispensers or practitioners may not  
16 be held civilly liable for damages for accessing or failing to access the information in  
17 the database.

18 (i) A person who intentionally discloses information in the database without  
19 authority or allows an unauthorized person access to the database commits a class A  
20 misdemeanor. A person who intentionally obtains unauthorized access to the database  
21 or alters or destroys information in the database without authority commits a class C  
22 felony.

23 (j) In this section,

24 (1) "board" means the Board of Pharmacy;

25 (2) "database" means the controlled substance prescription database  
26 established in this section;

27 (3) "pharmacist-in-charge" has the meaning given in AS 08.80.480.