
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6718 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, CANNABIS AND CANNABIS PRODUCTS.

SUMMARY

This bill makes changes to laws that address the safe storage and disposal of prescription drugs and other substances.

Beginning January 1, 2024, it requires pharmacies to affix a fluorescent orange sticker or label with black ink that says "DANGER TO CHILDREN KEEP OUT OF REACH" on any container or packaging in which an opioid drug or schedule II, III, IV, or V controlled substance is sold or dispensed.

The bill also requires the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to develop and administer a public awareness campaign about the (1) safe storage and disposal of prescription drugs, cannabis, cannabis products, and illegal drugs and (2) dangers they pose to children and tactics to reduce and eliminate them. The campaign must be delivered statewide to people who are homeless and receiving substance use disorder treatment.

Under the bill, DMHAS must do this (1) by July 1, 2024, and for at least two years until June 30, 2026, and (2) in collaboration with providers of substance use disorder treatment services and organizations serving the homeless.

*House Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill and eliminates provisions requiring (1) cannabis dispensary facilities, retailers, hybrid retailers, and micro-cultivators to affix stickers or labels to their products just as pharmacies must do for opioid drugs and other controlled substances; (2) the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to design and distribute these stickers or labels and distribute

them to the above-listed entities; (3) DCP to develop and administer a social media public awareness campaign on safe storage and disposal of cannabis and cannabis products; (4) DCP-licensed cannabis dispensaries to post signs on their premises notifying consumers of safe storage and disposal information available on DCP's website; and (5) the appropriation of funds to DCP and DMHAS to carry out the underlying bill's labeling and public awareness campaign requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Related Bills

HB 6696 (File 92), favorably reported by the General Law Committee, (1) requires pharmacists to give patients, when dispensing an opioid drug to them, a free personal opioid drug deactivation and disposal product and (2) allows them to seek reimbursement from the Opioid Settlement Fund for the cost of doing so.

sHB 6698 (File 187), favorably reported by the General Law Committee, (1) expands the pilot peer navigator program for individuals with opioid use disorder, making it a statewide initiative, and (2) explicitly authorizes the Opioid Settlement Fund to be used to pay for administering the program.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 2 (03/02/2023)