
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6718 (File 812, as amended by House “A” and Senate “A”)*

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

SUMMARY

This bill makes changes in 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.

It also requires the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) commissioner, by July 1, 2024, to adopt regulations to provide guidance to pharmacies on the optimal size of, and font size used on, the stickers or labels. Until then, he must implement, by September 1, 2023, policies and procedures on implementing the department’s guidance, which must remain valid until the final regulations are adopted.

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) 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.

*Senate Amendment "A" adds provisions requiring the DCP commissioner to adopt regulations and implement policies and procedures to provide guidance to pharmacies on implementing the underlying bill's sticker and labeling requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Related Bills

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)