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SENATE BILL No. 262

Proposed Changes to January 27, 2026 printing by AM026202

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Patient consent. Requires an opioid treatment program to, before reporting patient information to INSPECT, comply with federal regulations in obtaining patient consent.

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning professions and occupations.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. IC 25-26-24-3, AS ADDED BY P.L.51-2019, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. ~~(a)~~ As used in this chapter, "dispense" means to deliver a controlled substance to an ultimate user or research subject by or pursuant to the lawful order of a practitioner and includes the prescribing, administering, packaging, labeling, or compounding necessary to prepare the substance for that delivery.

~~(b) The term does not apply to the following:~~

~~(1) A drug administered directly to a patient.~~

~~(2) A drug dispensed by a practitioner, if the quantity dispensed is not more than a seventy-two (72) hour supply of a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III, IV, or V as set forth in IC 35-48-3-9.~~

SECTION 2. IC 25-26-24-12.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 12.5. "Prescription drug monitoring program data", for purposes of section 19 of this chapter, means the following:**

(1) Information received under section 17 of this chapter, including clinical or required alerts as defined by the board.

(2) Any other information determined by the board, including:

(A) a report concerning controlled substance poisonings or overdoses; and

(B) information concerning participation in an opioid treatment program (as defined in IC 12-7-2-135.6).

SECTION 3. IC 25-26-24-17, AS AMENDED BY P.L.17-2021, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 17. (a) **Except as provided in section 17.5 of this chapter,** the board shall provide for an ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and controlled substance prescription monitoring program that includes the following components:

(1) Each time ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or a controlled substance designated by the board under IC 35-48-2-5 through IC 35-48-2-10 is dispensed, the dispenser shall transmit to the INSPECT program the following information:

(A) The ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or controlled substance recipient's name.

(B) The ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or controlled substance recipient's or the recipient representative's identification number or the identification number or phrase designated by the INSPECT program.

(C) The ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or controlled substance recipient's date of birth.

(D) The national drug code number of the ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or controlled substance dispensed.

(E) The date the ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or controlled substance is dispensed.

(F) The quantity of the ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or controlled substance dispensed.

(G) The number of days of supply dispensed.

(H) The dispenser's United States Drug Enforcement Agency registration number.

(I) The prescriber's United States Drug Enforcement Agency registration number.

(J) An indication as to whether the prescription was transmitted to the pharmacist orally or in writing.

(K) Other data required by the board.

(2) The information required to be transmitted under this section must be transmitted not more than twenty-four (24) hours after the date on which ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or a controlled substance is dispensed. However, if the dispenser's pharmacy is

closed the day following the dispensing, the information must be transmitted by the end of the next business day. A dispenser who is also authorized to prescribe is required only to report actual dispensations within twenty-four (24) hours of the dispensation.

(3) A dispenser shall transmit the information required under this section by:

(A) uploading to the INSPECT ~~Internet web site;~~ **website;** or

(B) another electronic method that meets specifications prescribed by the board.

(4) The board may require that prescriptions for ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or controlled substances be written on a one (1) part form that cannot be duplicated. However, the board may not apply such a requirement to prescriptions filled at a pharmacy with a Category II permit (as described in IC 25-26-13-17) and operated by a hospital licensed under IC 16-21, or prescriptions ordered for and dispensed to bona fide enrolled patients in facilities licensed under IC 16-28. The board may not require multiple copy prescription forms for any prescriptions written. The board may not require different prescription forms for any individual drug or group of drugs. Prescription forms required under this subdivision must be approved by the Indiana board of pharmacy created by IC 25-26-13-3.

(5) The costs of the program.

(6) As part of the information to be completed in the data base and, if available, an entry where a dispenser indicates that a patient is participating in a pain management contract with a designated practitioner.

(b) The board shall consider the recommendations of the committee concerning the INSPECT program.

(c) This subsection applies only to a retail pharmacy. A pharmacist, pharmacy technician, or person authorized by a pharmacist to dispense ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or a controlled substance may not dispense ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or a controlled substance to a person who is not personally known to the pharmacist, pharmacy technician, or person authorized by a pharmacist to dispense a controlled substance unless the person taking possession of the ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or controlled substance provides documented proof of the person's identification to the pharmacist, pharmacy technician, or person authorized by a pharmacist to dispense ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or a controlled substance.

SECTION 4. IC 25-26-24-17.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 17.5. A dispenser is not required to transmit information required under section 17 of this chapter to the INSPECT program in the following circumstances:**

(1) A drug is administered directly to a patient.

(2) A drug is dispensed by a veterinary practitioner, if the quantity dispensed is not more than a seventy-two (72) hour supply of a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III, IV, or V as set forth in IC 35-48-3-9.

[SECTION 5. IC 25-26-24-18.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 18.5. Before reporting patient information to the INSPECT program, an opioid treatment program shall comply with 42 CFR 2.36 and 42 CFR 2.31 in obtaining patient consent.**

] SECTION ~~<5>~~[6]. IC 25-26-24-19, AS AMENDED BY P.L.81-2025, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 19. (a) Information received by the INSPECT program under section 17 of this chapter is confidential.

(b) The board shall carry out a program to protect the confidentiality of the information described in subsection (a). The board may disclose the information to another person only under subsection (c), (d), ~~or~~ (g), **or (s).**

(c) The board may disclose confidential information described in subsection (a) to any person who is authorized to engage in receiving, processing, or storing the information.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (e) and (f), the board may release confidential information described in subsection (a) to the following persons:

(1) A member of the board or another governing body that licenses practitioners and is engaged in an investigation, an adjudication, or a prosecution of a violation under any state or federal law that involves ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or a controlled substance.

(2) An investigator for the consumer protection division of the office of the attorney general, a prosecuting attorney, the attorney general, a deputy attorney general, or an investigator from the office of the attorney general, who is engaged in:

(A) an investigation;

(B) an adjudication; or

(C) a prosecution;

of a violation under any state or federal law that involves ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or a controlled substance.

(3) A law enforcement officer who is an employee of:

(A) a local, state, or federal law enforcement agency; or

(B) an entity that regulates ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or controlled substances or enforces ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or controlled substances rules or laws in another state;

that is certified to receive ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or controlled substance prescription drug information from the INSPECT program.

(4) A practitioner or practitioner's agent certified to receive information from the INSPECT program.

(5) An ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or controlled substance monitoring program in another state with which Indiana has established an interoperability agreement.

(6) The state toxicologist.

(7) A certified representative of the Medicaid retrospective and prospective drug utilization review program.

(8) A substance abuse assistance program for a licensed health care provider who:

(A) has prescriptive authority under this title; and

(B) is participating in the assistance program.

(9) An individual who holds a valid temporary medical permit issued under IC 25-22.5-5-4 or a noneducational commission for foreign medical graduates certified graduate permit issued under IC 25-22.5-5-4.6.

(10) A county coroner conducting a medical investigation of the cause of death.

(11) The management performance hub established by IC 4-3-26-8.

(12) The state epidemiologist under the Indiana department of health.

(13) A supervisor of the department of child services who is engaged in:

(A) an investigation; or

(B) an adjudication;

of child abuse or neglect.

(e) Information provided to a person under:

(1) subsection (d)(3) is limited to information:

(A) concerning an individual or proceeding involving the unlawful diversion or misuse of a schedule II, III, IV, or V

controlled substance; and

(B) that will assist in an investigation or proceeding;

(2) subsection (d)(4) may be released only for the purpose of:

(A) providing medical or pharmaceutical treatment; or

(B) evaluating the need for providing medical or pharmaceutical treatment to a patient; and

(3) subsection (d)(11) must be released to the extent disclosure of the information is not prohibited by applicable federal law.

(f) Before the board releases confidential information under subsection (d), the applicant must be approved by the INSPECT program in a manner prescribed by the board.

(g) The board may release to:

(1) a member of the board or another governing body that licenses practitioners;

(2) an investigator for the consumer protection division of the office of the attorney general, a prosecuting attorney, the attorney general, a deputy attorney general, or an investigator from the office of the attorney general; or

(3) a law enforcement officer who is:

(A) authorized by the state police department to receive ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or controlled substance prescription drug information; and

(B) approved by the board to receive the type of information released;

confidential information generated from computer records that identifies practitioners who are prescribing or dispensing large quantities of a controlled substance.

(h) The information described in subsection (g) may not be released until it has been reviewed by:

(1) a member of the board who is licensed in the same profession as the prescribing or dispensing practitioner identified by the data; or

(2) the board's designee;

and until that member or the designee has certified that further investigation is warranted. However, failure to comply with this subsection does not invalidate the use of any evidence that is otherwise admissible in a proceeding described in subsection (i).

(i) An investigator or a law enforcement officer receiving confidential information under subsection (c), (d), or (g) may disclose the information to a law enforcement officer or an attorney for the office of the attorney general for use as evidence in the following:

(1) A proceeding under IC 16-42-20.

(2) A proceeding under any state or federal law.

(3) A criminal proceeding or a proceeding in juvenile court.

(j) The board may compile statistical reports from the information described in subsection (a). The reports must not include information that identifies any practitioner, ultimate user, or other person administering ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or a controlled substance. Statistical reports compiled under this subsection are public records.

(k) Except as provided in subsections (q) and (r), and in addition to any requirements provided in IC 25-22.5-13, the following practitioners shall obtain information about a patient from the data base either directly or through the patient's integrated health record before prescribing an opioid or benzodiazepine to the patient:

(1) A practitioner who has had the information from the data base integrated into the patient's electronic health records.

(2) A practitioner who provides services to the patient in:

(A) the emergency department of a hospital licensed under IC 16-21; or

(B) a pain management clinic.

(3) Beginning January 1, 2020, a practitioner who provides services to the patient in a hospital licensed under IC 16-21.

(4) Beginning January 1, 2021, all practitioners.

However, a practitioner is not required to obtain information about a patient who is subject to a pain management contract from the data base more than once every ninety (90) days.

(l) A practitioner who checks the INSPECT program either directly through the data base or through the patient's integrated health record for the available data on a patient is immune from civil liability for an injury, death, or loss to a person solely due to a practitioner:

(1) seeking information from the INSPECT program; and

(2) in good faith using the information for the treatment of the patient.

The civil immunity described in this subsection does not extend to a practitioner if the practitioner receives information directly from the INSPECT program or through the patient's integrated health record and then negligently misuses this information. This subsection does not apply to an act or omission that is a result of gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

(m) The board may review the records of the INSPECT program. If the board determines that a violation of the law may have occurred, the board shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agency or the relevant government body responsible for the licensure, regulation, or discipline of practitioners authorized by law to prescribe controlled

substances.

(n) A practitioner who in good faith discloses information based on a report from the INSPECT program either directly through the data base or through the patient's integrated health record to a law enforcement agency is immune from criminal or civil liability. A practitioner that discloses information to a law enforcement agency under this subsection is presumed to have acted in good faith.

(o) A practitioner's agent may act as a delegate and check INSPECT program reports on behalf of the practitioner.

(p) A patient may access a report from the INSPECT program that has been included in the patient's medical file by a practitioner.

(q) A practitioner is not required under subsection (k) to obtain information about a patient from the data base or through the patient's integrated health record before prescribing an opioid or benzodiazepine if any of the following apply:

(1) The practitioner has obtained a waiver from the board because the practitioner does not have access to the Internet at the practitioner's place of business.

(2) The patient is:

(A) recovering; or

(B) in the process of completing a prescription that was prescribed by another practitioner;

while still being treated as an inpatient or in observation status.

(3) The data base described in section 18 of this chapter is suspended or is not operational if the practitioner documents in writing or electronically the date and time in the patient's medical record that the practitioner, dispenser, or delegate attempted to use the data base.

(r) A practitioner is not required under subsection (k) to obtain information about a patient from the data base or through the patient's integrated health record before prescribing an opioid or benzodiazepine if the patient is enrolled in a hospice program (as defined in IC 16-25-1.1-4).

(s) The board may disclose prescription drug monitoring program data to a representative of the Indiana department of health and the office of the secretary of family and social services to do the following:

(1) Aid in an active investigation concerning a controlled substance.

(2) Prevent overdose events.