

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 29 Dispensing Medicinal Drugs
SPONSOR(S): Willhite and others
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** CS/SB 262

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 117 Y's 0 N's **GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Approved

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 29 passed the House on April 28, 2021, as CS/SB 262.

Pharmacists and authorized prescribers may dispense medicinal drugs in this state. Authorized prescribers include allopathic and osteopathic physicians, podiatrists, dentists, optometrists, advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants.

Currently, an authorized prescriber may dispense up to a 24-hour supply of a medicinal drug to an emergency department patient of a hospital that holds an appropriate institutional pharmacy permit, if the treating physician determines that the medicinal drug is needed and that community pharmacy services are not readily accessible to the patient. If the patient needs more than a 24-hour supply of a drug, the prescriber must provide the patient with a prescription for use after the initial 24-hour period.

The bill expands this authorization to allow all authorized prescribers treating hospital patients to prescribe medicinal drugs when the prescriber determines the medicinal drug is warranted and community pharmacy services are unavailable. The bill also authorizes a hospital pharmacy to dispense the greater of a 48-hour supply of a medicinal drug or a supply of a medicinal drug that is sufficient to last a patient until the end of next business day. The bill also authorizes a hospital pharmacy to dispense up to a 72-hour supply of a medicinal drug if the patient is located in an area in which a state of emergency is declared.

The bill corrects current statutory language to reflect that it is the hospital pharmacy that dispenses the medicinal drug, rather than the prescriber.

The bill has an insignificant, negative fiscal impact on the Department of Health, which current resources are adequate to absorb. The bill has no fiscal impact on local governments.

The bill was approved by the Governor on June 21, 2021, ch. 2021-121, L.O.F., the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2021.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Present Situation

Practice of Pharmacy

The Florida Pharmacy Act (Act) regulates Florida pharmacies and imposes minimum requirements for safe practice.¹ The Board of Pharmacy (board) within the Department of Health (DOH) is tasked with adopting rules to implement the provisions of the Act and setting standards of practice.²

Dispensing of Medicinal Drugs

Pharmacists, licensed under the Act, are authorized to dispense medicinal drugs³ in this state, and authorized prescribers may dispense medicinal drugs to their patients.⁴ Authorized prescribers include allopathic and osteopathic physicians, podiatrists, dentists, optometrists, advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants.⁵ A prescriber who dispenses medicinal drugs for a fee or remuneration of any kind, must:⁶

- Register with his or her professional licensing board as a dispensing practitioner and pay the fee established by the board;
- Comply with and be subject to all state and federal laws, rules, and regulations applicable to pharmacists and pharmacies;
- Give each patient a written prescription and advise the patient that the prescription may be filled in the practitioner's office or at any pharmacy, orally or in writing; and
- Verify the identity of a patient who is not known to the dispenser before dispensing a controlled substance.

Pharmacy Regulation

A person must obtain a DOH-issued permit to operate one of five types of pharmacies:

- **Community pharmacy** – Where medicinal drugs are compounded, dispensed, stored, or sold or where prescriptions are filled or dispensed on an outpatient basis.⁷
- **Institutional pharmacy** – Hospital, clinic, nursing home, dispensary, sanitarium, extended care facility, or other facility locations where medicinal drugs are compounded, dispensed, stored, or sold.⁸
- **Nuclear pharmacy** – Where radioactive drugs and chemicals within the classification of medicinal drugs are compounded, dispensed, stored, or sold, other than hospitals.⁹
- **Special pharmacy** - Locations where medicinal drugs are compounded, dispensed, stored, or sold if these locations do not otherwise meet an applicable pharmacy definition in s. 465.003, F.S.¹⁰

¹ Ch. 465, F.S.

² Ss. 465.005, 465.0155(1), and 465.022, F.S.

³ A medicinal drug is a substance or preparation commonly known as a prescription or legend drug, which by federal or state law may only be dispensed pursuant to a prescription. See s. 465.003(8), F.S.

⁴ S. 465.0276, F.S.

⁵ For limitations on an optometrist's authority to prescribe or dispense a medicinal drug, see s. 463.0055, F.S.; for an advanced practice registered nurse's limitations, see s. 464.012; and for a physician assistant's limitations, see ss. 458.347(4)(e) or 459.022(4)(e), F.S.

⁶ S. 465.0276(2), F.S.

⁷ Ss. 465.003(11)(a)1. and 465.018, F.S.

⁸ Ss. 465.003(11)(a)2. and 465.019, F.S.

⁹ Ss. 465.003(11)(a)3. and 465.0193, F.S.

¹⁰ Ss. 465.003(11)(a)4. and 465.0196, F.S.

- **Internet pharmacy** – Locations not otherwise licensed or issued a pharmacy permit within or outside this state, which use the Internet to communicate with or obtain information from consumers in this state to fill or refill prescriptions or to dispense, distribute, or otherwise practice pharmacy in this state.¹¹

All permitted pharmacies must pass an on-site inspection before DOH will issue an initial permit and any time a pharmacy changes its ownership or address.¹²

Institutional Pharmacies

An institutional pharmacy is a pharmacy within a healthcare institution, such as a hospital, nursing home, or clinic (as opposed to a community pharmacy, which dispenses drugs to the general public on an outpatient basis).¹³ There are four types of institutional pharmacies:¹⁴

- Class I Institutional permits are issued to institutional pharmacies in which all medicinal drugs are administered from individual prescription containers to individual patients and in which medicinal drugs are not dispensed on the premises, except that licensed nursing homes¹⁵ may purchase medical oxygen for administration to residents.
- Class II Institutional permits are issued to institutional pharmacies that employ a registered pharmacist who consults with and dispenses medicinal drugs to patients on the premises of the institution, for use on the premises of the institution.
- Modified Class II Institutional permits are issued to institutional pharmacies in a short-term, primary care treatment center that meet all the requirements for a Class II permit, except space and equipment requirements.
- Class III Institutional permits are issued to institutional pharmacies, including central distribution facilities, affiliated with a hospital that provide the same services that are authorized by a Class II institutional pharmacy permit. Additionally, an Class III Institutional pharmacy may:
 - Dispense, distribute, compound, and fill prescriptions for medicinal drugs;
 - Prepare prepackaged drug products;
 - Conduct other pharmaceutical services for the affiliated hospital and for entities under common control that are appropriately permitted;
 - Provide the above-listed services to an entity under common control which holds an active health care clinic establishment permit.¹⁶

Class III Institutional pharmacies must also maintain policies and procedures which address:¹⁷

- Safe practices for the preparation, dispensing, prepackaging, distribution, and transportation of medicinal drugs and prepackaged drug products;
- Recordkeeping to monitor the movement, distribution, and transportation of medicinal drugs and prepackaged drug products;
- Recordkeeping of pharmacy staff responsible for each step in the preparation, dispensing, prepackaging, transportation, and distribution of medicinal drugs and prepackaged drug products; and
- Medicinal drugs and prepackaged drug products that may not be safely distributed among Class III institutional pharmacies.

¹¹ Ss. 465.003(11)(a)5. and 465.0197, F.S.

¹² R. 64B16-28(1)(d), F.A.C.

¹³ S. 465.003(11), F.S.

¹⁴ S. 465.019, F.S.

¹⁵ Nursing homes are licensed under part II, ch. 400, F.S.

¹⁶ A health care clinic establishment permit is required for the purchase of a prescription drug by a place of business at one general physical location that provides health care or veterinary services, which is owned or operated by a business entity. See s. 499.01(2)(r), F.S.

¹⁷ S. 465.019(1)(d), F.S.

All institutional pharmacies must designate a consultant pharmacist of record.¹⁸ The consultant pharmacist's responsibilities include:¹⁹

- Maintaining all drug records required by law;
- Ordering and evaluating laboratory or clinical testing when necessary for the proper performance of the consultant pharmacist's responsibilities;²⁰
- Conducting drug regimen reviews as required by state or federal law; and
- Inspecting the facility and preparing a written report to be filed at the permitted facility monthly.

Dispensing by Institutional Pharmacies

An institutional pharmacy must hold a community pharmacy permit to dispense medicinal drugs to outpatients.²¹ However, an authorized prescriber may dispense up to a 24-hour supply of a medicinal drug to any patient of an emergency department of a hospital that operates a Class II or Class III institutional pharmacy, provided that the treating physician determines that the medicinal drug is warranted and community pharmacy services are not readily accessible.²² If the patient needs more than a 24-hour supply of a medicinal drug, an authorized prescriber must dispense a 24-hour supply of the medicinal drug and provide the patient with a prescription for use after the initial 24-hour period.²³ Such dispensing must be in accordance with the hospital's procedures.

For any drug dispensed from the emergency department of a hospital, the prescriber must create, and the consultant pharmacist of record must maintain, a patient record which includes the following:²⁴

- Patient name and address;
- Drug and strength of the prescribed and/or dispensed;
- Quantity prescribed and/or dispensed;
- Directions for use;
- Prescriber/Dispenser;
- Prescriber's Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration, if applicable; and
- Reason community pharmacy services were not readily accessible.

Any dispensed medications must be properly labeled and may not exceed the greater of a 24-hour supply or the minimal dispensable quantity.²⁵

Effect of the Bill

Hospital Prescribing and Dispensing

The bill expands the authorization to prescribe and dispense medicinal drugs in hospital settings. It allows all authorized prescribers to prescribe, and hospital pharmacies to dispense, a limited supply of medicinal drugs to emergency department patients and inpatients upon discharge when the prescriber determines the medicinal drug is warranted and community pharmacy services are unavailable.

¹⁸ S. 465.019(5), F.S., and r. 64B16-28.501, F.A.C.

¹⁹ S. 465.0125, F.S., and r. 64B16-28.501, F.A.C.

²⁰ A consultant pharmacist may only order these tests for patients under the care of a licensed home health agency and when authorized by a licensed allopathic physician, osteopathic physician, podiatric physician, or dentist. The consultant pharmacist must complete additional training and meet additional qualifications in the practice of institutional pharmacy, as required by the board. See s. 465.0125.

²¹ S. 465.019(4), F.S.

²² *Id.*

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ R. 64B16-28.6021, F.A.C.

²⁵ *Id.*

The bill authorizes a hospital pharmacy to dispense the greater of a 48-hour supply of a medicinal drug or a supply sufficient to last until the end of the next business day. The bill further authorizes a hospital pharmacy to dispense a supply of a medicinal drug that will last up to 72 hours if the patient is located in an area of the state in which a state of emergency is declared.

Prescribers and pharmacies must comply with current law when prescribing and dispensing controlled substances. The bill corrects current statutory language to reflect that it is the hospital pharmacy that dispenses the medicinal drug, rather than the prescriber.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2021.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

DOH will incur insignificant, nonrecurring costs associated with amending adopted rules, which current resources are adequate to absorb.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.