

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to medical practice, so as to require Opioid Education and Pro-Active Addiction
3 Counseling for patients who are prescribed Schedule II or III controlled substances by
4 physicians for chronic pain for extended periods; to provide for related matters; to provide
5 for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
9 medical practice, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

10 "43-34-46.

11 When prescribing a Schedule II or III controlled substance to a patient for 90 consecutive
12 days or greater for the treatment of chronic pain from conditions that are nonterminal
13 conditions, a physician shall require the patient to participate in Opioid Education and
14 Pro-Active Addiction Counseling that meets the requirements of this Code section at least
15 once every three months during the course of such treatment. Opioid Education and
16 Pro-Active Addiction Counseling shall be provided by third parties for a fee of not more
17 than \$100.00 per session to the patient. Opioid Education and Pro-Active Addiction
18 Counseling shall be staffed and conducted by licensed professional counselors, certified
19 addiction counselors, or both."

20 **SECTION 2.**

21 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2016.

22 **SECTION 3.**

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.