

SENATE BILL NO. 329—SENATORS BREEDEN AND WIENER

MARCH 21, 2011

Referred to Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing prescriptions.  
(BDR 54-904)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Increases or Newly  
Provides for Term of Imprisonment in County or City  
Jail or Detention Facility.  
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to pharmacy; authorizing certain education and training to be provided to practitioners concerning the management by a patient of medications of the patient; requiring practitioners to post a sign informing patients of the right to have the symptom or purpose for which a drug is prescribed be included on the label of the container of the drug; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

1 Existing law authorizes, but does not require, a practitioner to ask a patient if  
2 the patient wishes to have included on the label of a prescription the symptom or  
3 purpose for which the drug is dispensed and, if the patient so requests, requires the  
4 practitioner to include such information on the written prescription. (NRS  
5 639.2352) **Section 2** of this bill requires practitioners to post signs in English and  
6 Spanish informing patients of the right to have certain information included on the  
7 label attached to the container of the drug. **Sections 1.3 and 1.7** of this bill require  
8 the Board of Medical Examiners and the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine to  
9 encourage physicians to obtain continuing education concerning methods of  
10 educating patients about how to effectively manage medications. **Section 6.5** of this  
11 bill authorizes the State Board of Pharmacy or the Investigation Division of the  
12 Department of Public Safety, in cooperation with the Health Division of the  
13 Department of Health and Human Services, to carry out education and training  
14 regarding the rights of patients to have the symptom or purpose of a medication  
15 printed on the label attached to the container for that medication.



\* S B 3 2 9 R 1 \*

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1     **Section 1.** (Deleted by amendment.)  
2     **Sec. 1.3.** NRS 630.253 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
3     630.253 1. The Board shall, as a prerequisite for the:  
4     (a) Renewal of a license as a physician assistant; or  
5     (b) Biennial registration of the holder of a license to practice  
6     medicine,  
7     ➤ require each holder to comply with the requirements for  
8     continuing education adopted by the Board.  
9     2. These requirements:  
10    (a) May provide for the completion of one or more courses of  
11    instruction relating to risk management in the performance of  
12    medical services.  
13    (b) Must provide for the completion of a course of instruction,  
14    within 2 years after initial licensure, relating to the medical  
15    consequences of an act of terrorism that involves the use of a  
16    weapon of mass destruction. The course must provide at least 4  
17    hours of instruction that includes instruction in the following  
18    subjects:  
19       (1) An overview of acts of terrorism and weapons of mass  
20       destruction;  
21       (2) Personal protective equipment required for acts of  
22       terrorism;  
23       (3) Common symptoms and methods of treatment associated  
24       with exposure to, or injuries caused by, chemical, biological,  
25       radioactive and nuclear agents;  
26       (4) Syndromic surveillance and reporting procedures for acts  
27       of terrorism that involve biological agents; and  
28       (5) An overview of the information available on, and the use  
29       of, the Health Alert Network.  
30    ➤ The Board may thereafter determine whether to include in a  
31    program of continuing education additional courses of instruction  
32    relating to the medical consequences of an act of terrorism that  
33    involves the use of a weapon of mass destruction.  
34    3. The Board shall encourage each holder of a license who  
35    treats or cares for persons who are more than 60 years of age to  
36    receive, as a portion of their continuing education, education in  
37    geriatrics and gerontology, including such topics as:  
38    (a) The skills and knowledge that the licensee needs to address  
39    aging issues;  
40    (b) Approaches to providing health care to older persons,  
41    including both didactic and clinical approaches;



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1 (c) The biological, behavioral, social and emotional aspects of  
2 the aging process; and

3 (d) The importance of maintenance of function and  
4 independence for older persons.

5 4. *The Board shall encourage each holder of a license to*  
6 *practice medicine to receive, as a portion of his or her continuing*  
7 *education, training concerning methods for educating patients*  
8 *about how to effectively manage medications, including, without*  
9 *limitation, the ability of the patient to request to have the symptom*  
10 *or purpose for which a drug is prescribed included on the label*  
11 *attached to the container of the drug.*

12 5. As used in this section:

13 (a) "Act of terrorism" has the meaning ascribed to it in  
14 NRS 202.4415.

15 (b) "Biological agent" has the meaning ascribed to it in  
16 NRS 202.442.

17 (c) "Chemical agent" has the meaning ascribed to it in  
18 NRS 202.4425.

19 (d) "Radioactive agent" has the meaning ascribed to it in  
20 NRS 202.4437.

21 (e) "Weapon of mass destruction" has the meaning ascribed to it  
22 in NRS 202.4445.

23 **Sec. 1.7.** NRS 633.471 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 633.471 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection **4** **5**  
25 and NRS 633.491, every holder of a license to practice osteopathic  
26 medicine issued under this chapter, except a temporary or a special  
27 license, may renew the license on or before January 1 of each  
28 calendar year after its issuance by:

29 (a) Applying for renewal on forms provided by the Board;

30 (b) Paying the annual license renewal fee specified in this  
31 chapter;

32 (c) Submitting a list of all actions filed or claims submitted to  
33 arbitration or mediation for malpractice or negligence against the  
34 holder during the previous year;

35 (d) Submitting an affidavit to the Board that in the year  
36 preceding the application for renewal the holder has attended  
37 courses or programs of continuing education approved by the Board  
38 totaling a number of hours established by the Board which must not  
39 be less than 35 hours nor more than that set in the requirements for  
40 continuing medical education of the American Osteopathic  
41 Association; and

42 (e) Submitting all information required to complete the renewal.

43 2. The Secretary of the Board shall notify each licensee of the  
44 practice of osteopathic medicine of the requirements for renewal not  
45 less than 30 days before the date of renewal.



1 3. The Board shall request submission of verified evidence of  
2 completion of the required number of hours of continuing medical  
3 education annually from no fewer than one-third of the applicants  
4 for renewal of a license to practice osteopathic medicine. Upon a  
5 request from the Board, an applicant for renewal of a license to  
6 practice osteopathic medicine shall submit verified evidence  
7 satisfactory to the Board that in the year preceding the application  
8 for renewal the applicant attended courses or programs of  
9 continuing medical education approved by the Board totaling the  
10 number of hours established by the Board.

11 4. *The Board shall encourage each holder of a license to*  
12 *practice osteopathic medicine to receive, as a portion of his or her*  
13 *continuing education, training concerning methods for educating*  
14 *patients about how to effectively manage medications, including,*  
15 *without limitation, the ability of the patient to request to have the*  
16 *symptom or purpose for which a drug is prescribed included on*  
17 *the label attached to the container of the drug.*

18 5. Members of the Armed Forces of the United States and the  
19 United States Public Health Service are exempt from payment of the  
20 annual license renewal fee during their active duty status.

21 **Sec. 2.** NRS 639.2352 is hereby amended to read as follows:

22 639.2352 1. Before issuing a prescription, a practitioner may  
23 ask the patient whether he or she wishes to have included on the  
24 label ~~[of the prescription]~~ *attached to the container of the drug*  
25 *the symptom or purpose for which the drug is prescribed. If the patient*  
26 *requests that the information be included on the label, the*  
27 *practitioner shall include on the prescription the symptom or*  
28 *purpose for which the drug is prescribed.*

29 2. *Each practitioner shall post in a conspicuous location in*  
30 *each room used for the examination of a patient a sign which is*  
31 *not less than 8.5 inches wide and not less than 11 inches high and*  
32 *which contains, in at least 12-point boldface type, the following:*

33  
34 **NOTICE TO PATIENTS**

35  
36 *You have the right to have the symptom or purpose for*  
37 *which a drug is prescribed included on the label attached to*  
38 *the container of your prescribed drug.*

39  
40 *You have the right to ask the person writing your*  
41 *prescription to instruct the pharmacy to print this*  
42 *information on the label attached to the container of your*  
43 *prescribed drug.*



1 *Having the purpose or symptom printed on the label*  
2 *attached to the container of your drug may help you to*  
3 *properly use and track your prescribed drugs.*

4  
5 **AVISO A LOS PACIENTES**

6  
7 *Tiene derecho de que se imprima cierta información en la*  
8 *etiqueta de sus medicamentos. Específicamente, usted puede*  
9 *elegir que la etiqueta incluya los síntomas o el propósito*  
10 *para que el medicamento se prescribe.*

11  
12 *Tiene derecho de pedirle a la person que prescriba su*  
13 *medicamento que dirija a la farmacia que imprima la*  
14 *información en la etiqueta.*

15  
16 *Si se imprimen los síntomas o el propósito en la etiqueta de*  
17 *sus medicamentos, le puede ayudar a mantenerlos y usarlos*  
18 *apropiadamente.*

19 **Sec. 3.** (Deleted by amendment.)

20 **Sec. 4.** (Deleted by amendment.)

21 **Sec. 5.** (Deleted by amendment.)

22 **Sec. 6.** (Deleted by amendment.)

23 **Sec. 6.5.** NRS 453.155 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 453.155 1. The Board or Division, in cooperation with the  
25 Health Division of the Department, may carry out educational  
26 programs designed to prevent and deter misuse and abuse of  
27 controlled substances. In connection with these programs the Board  
28 or Division may:

29 (a) Promote better recognition of the problems of misuse and  
30 abuse of controlled substances within the regulated industry and  
31 among interested groups and organizations;

32 (b) Assist the regulated industry and interested groups and  
33 organizations in contributing to the reduction of misuse and abuse of  
34 controlled substances;

35 (c) Consult with interested groups and organizations to aid them  
36 in solving administrative and organizational problems;

37 (d) Evaluate procedures, projects, techniques and controls  
38 conducted or proposed as part of educational programs on misuse  
39 and abuse of controlled substances;

40 (e) Disseminate the results of research on misuse and abuse of  
41 controlled substances to promote a better public understanding of  
42 what problems exist and what can be done to alleviate them; ~~and~~

43 (f) Assist in the education and training of state and local law  
44 enforcement officials in their efforts to control misuse and abuse of  
45 controlled substances ~~and~~; *and*



1 (g) Carry out education and training for physicians,  
2 pharmacists and patients regarding the ability of the patient to  
3 request to have the symptom or purpose for which a controlled  
4 substance is prescribed included on the label attached to the  
5 container of the controlled substance.

6 2. The Board shall encourage research on misuse and abuse of  
7 controlled substances. In connection with the research, and in  
8 furtherance of the enforcement of the provisions of NRS 453.011 to  
9 453.552, inclusive, it may:

10 (a) Establish methods to assess accurately the effects of  
11 controlled substances and identify and characterize those with  
12 potential for abuse;

13 (b) Make studies and undertake programs of research to:

14 (1) Develop new or improved approaches, techniques,  
15 systems, equipment and devices to strengthen the enforcement of  
16 such sections;

17 (2) Determine patterns of misuse and abuse of controlled  
18 substances and the social effects thereof; and

19 (3) Improve methods for preventing, predicting,  
20 understanding and dealing with the misuse and abuse of controlled  
21 substances; and

22 (c) Enter into contracts with public agencies, institutions of  
23 higher education, and private organizations or individuals for the  
24 purpose of conducting research, demonstrations or special projects  
25 which bear directly on misuse and abuse of controlled substances.

26 3. The Board may authorize persons engaged in research on the  
27 use and effects of controlled substances to withhold the names and  
28 other identifying characteristics of individuals who are the subject of  
29 the research. A person who obtains this authorization is not  
30 compelled in any civil, criminal, administrative, legislative or other  
31 proceeding to identify the individuals who are the subjects of  
32 research for which the authorization was obtained.

33 4. The Board may authorize the possession and distribution of  
34 controlled substances by persons engaged in research. A person who  
35 obtains this authorization is exempt from state prosecution for  
36 possession and distribution of controlled substances to the extent of  
37 the authorization. The Board shall promptly notify the Division of  
38 any such authorization.

39 **Sec. 7.** (Deleted by amendment.)





