

1 **PATIENT AND SAFETY-CENTERED PRESCRIPTION**

2 **LABELS CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

3 2011 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Chief Sponsor: Marie H. Poulson**

6 Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

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10 This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor urges prescribers,  
11 dispensers, manufacturers of drugs, health insurers, and government agencies generally  
12 to take specific steps to improve patient and safety-centered prescription labels.

13 **Highlighted Provisions:**

14 This resolution:

- 15 ▶ urges individuals to assume primary responsibility for the proper and safe use,  
16 storage, and disposal of any drug prescribed to them, and to encourage their  
17 dispensers to provide adequate instruction on how to fulfill those responsibilities;
- 18 ▶ urges the Utah Pharmacy Board, the Utah Pharmacists Association, and other  
19 related groups to meet regularly during 2011 to develop a prescription label format  
20 that is patient- and safety-centered;
- 21 ▶ urges the Utah Pharmacy Board and the Utah Pharmacists Association to provide  
22 project updates and present the improved prescription label format to the  
23 Legislature's Business and Labor Interim Committee;
- 24 ▶ urges pharmacists to encourage patients when they receive a prescribed drug to also  
25 receive verbal instructions from the pharmacist on how to safely use and store the  
26 prescribed drug;
- 27 ▶ urges the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing to survey doctors,



28 pharmacists, and patients to determine whether patients are receiving these instructions; and  
 29       ▶ urges federal, state, and local agencies to continue working to reduce prescription  
 30 drug misuse, addiction, and drug-related death, to develop campaigns to educate the  
 31 public about the dangers of prescription drug misuse, to promote the proper disposal  
 32 of partially-used or expired prescriptions, to continue developing drop-off sites and  
 33 other secure and environmentally friendly methods for disposing of unused  
 34 prescription drugs, and to continue promoting the availability and use of programs  
 35 that treat prescription drug addiction.

36 **Special Clauses:**

37       None



39 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

40       WHEREAS, the misuse of prescription drugs increases the likelihood of a negative  
 41 physical reaction, dependency, addiction, overdose, and death;

42       WHEREAS, individuals, as consumers of prescription drugs, should assume the  
 43 primary responsibility for the proper and safe use, storage, and disposal of any drug prescribed  
 44 to them;

45       WHEREAS, dispensers of prescription drugs should provide adequate instructions to  
 46 consumers on how to fulfill their responsibilities regarding the safe use, storage, and disposal  
 47 of prescription drugs;

48       WHEREAS, patient- and safety-centered prescription labels decrease the chance for  
 49 misuse of prescribed drugs;

50       WHEREAS, patient- and safety-centered labels should include improved directions for  
 51 use with wording that is easily understood by a non-medical professional or individual;

52       WHEREAS, properly and safely storing prescription medications reduces the potential  
 53 for misuse, abuse, and theft;

54       WHEREAS, properly disposing of unused medications, by the expiration date, reduces  
 55 the potential for misuse, abuse, and theft; and

56       WHEREAS, prescribers, dispensers, manufacturers, health insurers, and government  
 57 agencies are each in a position to improve prescription drug patient safety:

58       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Utah, the

59 Governor concurring therein, urge individuals, as consumers of prescription drugs, to assume  
60 the primary responsibility for the proper and safe use, storage, and disposal of any drug  
61 prescribed to them, and to encourage their prescription drug dispensers to provide adequate  
62 instructions on how to fulfill those responsibilities.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge the Utah  
64 Pharmacy Board, the Utah Pharmacists Association, and other related parties to meet during  
65 2011 to design a prescription label that is patient-centered and contains directions for safe use,  
66 including the purpose of the medication, that employ simple and clear terms that can be easily  
67 understood by non-medical professionals or individuals and improved font types and sizes to  
68 meet the needs of those who are visually impaired.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge the Utah  
70 Pharmacy Board and the Utah Pharmacists Association to provide updates on the progress of  
71 this project and present the improved prescription label format to the Business and Labor  
72 Interim Committee by November 2011.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge pharmacists,  
74 as dispensers of prescription drugs, to encourage patients when they receive a prescribed drug  
75 to also receive verbal instructions from the pharmacist on how to safely use the prescribed  
76 drug, including the potential for dangerous interactions with other medications and substances,  
77 where to find pertinent information on the prescription drug label, including prescription  
78 number, directions, the purpose of the medication, as indicated by the physician, warning  
79 labels, quantity, expiration date, refills remaining, pharmacy contact information and provider,  
80 how to safely store and dispose of any unused portion of the prescription, including how to  
81 protect family members and others from any unintentional or intentional misuse of the drug,  
82 how to recognize any signs of dependency or addiction and the importance of reporting those  
83 signs to the prescriber, and the legal prohibitions against sharing or selling any portion of the  
84 prescription.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge the Division  
86 of Occupational and Professional Licensing, as division resources permit, to survey doctors,  
87 pharmacists, and patients to determine whether patients are receiving appropriate instructions  
88 on the safe use, storage, and disposal of prescription drugs and potential drug interactions.

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge federal,

90 state, and local agencies, as entities created to protect the public, to continue working, on their  
91 own and through multi-agency projects like the Utah Prescription Pain Medication  
92 Management and Education Program and the Utah Pharmaceutical Drug Crime Project, to  
93 reduce prescription drug misuse, addiction, and death, to continue developing campaigns such  
94 as "Use Only as Directed" and "Clean Out the Cabinet," to educate the public about the dangers  
95 of prescription drug misuse, the importance of reading the prescription drug label and using  
96 only as directed, to promote the disposal of partially used or expired prescriptions, to continue  
97 developing drop-off sites and other secure and environmentally friendly methods for disposing  
98 of unused prescription drugs, and to continue promoting the availability and use of programs  
99 that treat prescription drug addiction.

100 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the resolution be sent to the Utah  
101 Pharmacy Board, the Utah Pharmacists Association, the Utah Medical Association, the Utah  
102 Food Industry Association, the Utah Retail Merchants Association, the Utah Health Insurance  
103 Association, the Employers Council, the ERISA Industry Committee, the National Association  
104 of Boards of Pharmacy, the National Federation of Independent Business, the Business and  
105 Labor Interim Committee, the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, the Utah  
106 Department of Health, the Utah Department of Human Services, the Utah Association of Local  
107 Health Departments, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**as of 1-26-11 9:02 AM**

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

# FISCAL NOTE

H.C.R. 5

SHORT TITLE: Patient and Safety-centered Prescription Labels Concurrent Resolution

SPONSOR: Poulson, M.

2011 GENERAL SESSION, STATE OF UTAH

STATE GOVERNMENT (UCA 36-12-13(2)(b))

Enactment of this bill likely will not materially impact the state budget.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCA 36-12-13(2)(c))

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for local governments.

DIRECT EXPENDITURES BY UTAH RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES (UCA 36-12-13(2)(d))

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable expenditures by Utah residents or businesses.