



PA 25-171—HB 7179
General Law Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING PHARMACEUTICAL MARKETING AND
PHARMACEUTICALS**

SUMMARY: This act makes a number of changes related to pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical representatives. It:

1. limits the contents of the list of pharmaceutical representatives employed by registered pharmaceutical manufacturers that the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) must post on its website to the representatives' first name and last initial, prohibits inclusion of their home addresses, and no longer requires the posting to be prominently displayed on DCP's website;
2. allows a licensed veterinarian to authorize another person to dispense a prescription veterinary drug under certain circumstances;
3. makes various changes regarding permits to sell nonlegend (i.e. nonprescription) drugs, including eliminating the permit requirement for someone who distributes free nonlegend naloxone through a legally compliant secure box; and
4. changes requirements for these secure boxes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

DISPENSING VETERINARY DRUGS

The act allows a licensed veterinarian to authorize another person to dispense a prescription veterinary drug if done:

1. under a veterinarian's lawful written or oral order in the course of the veterinarian's professional practice and following federal and state laws and regulations on dispensing prescription veterinary drugs,
2. for an animal that the veterinarian has a veterinarian-client-patient relationship with and access to the animal's medical records, and
3. under the veterinarian's direct supervision.

The authorizing veterinarian must ensure that all requirements for dispensing the drug are followed.

The act allows the Department of Public Health commissioner, in consultation with DCP and the Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine, to adopt regulations to implement these provisions.

NONLEGEND DRUG PERMITS

Prior law required a permit from the Commission of Pharmacy in order to sell nonlegend drugs and a permit from DCP to do so in a vending machine. The act

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instead requires DCP to issue each of these permits and allows the DCP commissioner to set the form and manner of an application.

The act excludes from the permit requirement someone who only distributes nonlegend naloxone to the public through a secure, legally compliant lockbox (see below) for free. The act waives the \$140 application fee and \$100 renewal fee for a permit to sell nonlegend drugs for an applicant who attests on the application that the permit will be used only to distribute nonlegend drugs for free.

Under prior law, a permit holder had to notify the commission about a change in ownership, name, or location within five days after the change. The act instead requires a permit holder to electronically submit the change to DCP in a form and manner set by the DCP commissioner, and requires notice for a change of permanent physical location rather than change of location of permit premises.

The act eliminates a provision making these permits nontransferable.

SECURE BOXES

The act changes certain requirements for secure boxes containing an opioid antagonist (such as naloxone). As under existing law, the box must be securely affixed in a public location and be accessible by people for public use. The act deletes requirements that it be (1) temperature controlled or in a temperature-controlled environment, (2) tamper resistant, and (3) equipped with an alarm that transmits a signal and alerts first responders when accessed by someone. The act adds that the box must display any sign DCP deems necessary or appropriate and DCP must post an image of the required sign on its website.

By law, a prescribing practitioner or pharmacist certified to prescribe an opioid antagonist can enter an agreement with a community health organization, emergency medical service provider, government or law enforcement agency, or board of education to install a secure box containing an opioid antagonist. The agreement must address certain topics, such as environmental controls, replenishing contents, monitoring expiration dates, and signage about location and usage directions.