

## CHAPTER 2016-177

### Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 964

An act relating to the prescription drug monitoring program; amending s. 893.055, F.S.; providing that certain acts of dispensing controlled substances in specified facilities are not required to be reported to the prescription drug monitoring program; authorizing the designee of a pharmacy, prescriber, or dispenser to have access to a patient's record in the prescription drug monitoring program's database for a specified purpose; authorizing an impaired practitioner consultant to access an impaired practitioner program participant's or referral's record in the prescription drug monitoring program's database; amending s. 893.0551, F.S.; authorizing the designee of a health care practitioner, pharmacist, pharmacy, prescriber, or dispenser or an impaired practitioner consultant to receive certain information from the prescription drug monitoring program; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (5) of section 893.055, Florida Statutes, and paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (7) and subsection (12) of that section are amended, to read:

893.055 Prescription drug monitoring program.—

(5) When the following acts of dispensing or administering occur, the following are exempt from reporting under this section for that specific act of dispensing or administration:

(g) A rehabilitative hospital, assisted living facility, or nursing home dispensing a certain dosage of a controlled substance, as needed, to a patient as ordered by the patient's treating physician.

(7)

(b) A pharmacy, prescriber, or dispenser, or the designee of a pharmacy, prescriber, or dispenser, shall have access to information in the prescription drug monitoring program's database which relates to a patient of that pharmacy, prescriber, or dispenser in a manner established by the department as needed for the purpose of reviewing the patient's controlled substance prescription history. Other access to the program's database shall be limited to the program's manager and to the designated program and support staff, who may act only at the direction of the program manager or, in the absence of the program manager, as authorized. Access by the program manager or such designated staff is for prescription drug program management only or for management of the program's database and its system in support of the requirements of this section and in furtherance of

the prescription drug monitoring program. Confidential and exempt information in the database shall be released only as provided in paragraph (c) and s. 893.0551. The program manager, designated program and support staff who act at the direction of or in the absence of the program manager, and any individual who has similar access regarding the management of the database from the prescription drug monitoring program shall submit fingerprints to the department for background screening. The department shall follow the procedure established by the Department of Law Enforcement to request a statewide criminal history record check and to request that the Department of Law Enforcement forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check.

(c) The following entities ~~are~~ shall not be allowed direct access to information in the prescription drug monitoring program database but may request from the program manager and, when authorized by the program manager, the program manager's program and support staff, information that is confidential and exempt under s. 893.0551. ~~Before~~ Prior to release, ~~a~~ the request by the following entities shall be verified as authentic and authorized with the requesting organization by the program manager, the program manager's program and support staff, or as determined in rules by the department as being authentic and as having been authorized by the requesting entity:

1. The department or its relevant health care regulatory boards responsible for the licensure, regulation, or discipline of practitioners, pharmacists, or other persons who are authorized to prescribe, administer, or dispense controlled substances and who are involved in a specific controlled substance investigation involving a designated person for one or more prescribed controlled substances.

2. The Attorney General for Medicaid fraud cases involving prescribed controlled substances.

3. A law enforcement agency during active investigations ~~of regarding~~ potential criminal activity, fraud, or theft regarding prescribed controlled substances.

4. A patient or the legal guardian or designated health care surrogate of an incapacitated patient as described in s. 893.0551 who, for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of the database information, submits a written and notarized request that includes the patient's full name, address, and date of birth, and includes the same information if the legal guardian or health care surrogate submits the request. The request shall be validated by the department to verify the identity of the patient and the legal guardian or health care surrogate, if the patient's legal guardian or health care surrogate is the requestor. Such verification is also required for any request to change a patient's prescription history or other information related to his or her information in the electronic database.

5. An impaired practitioner consultant who is retained by the department under s. 456.076 for the purpose of reviewing the database information of an impaired practitioner program participant or a referral who has agreed to be evaluated or monitored through the program and who has separately agreed in writing to the consultant's access to and review of such information.

Information in the database for the electronic prescription drug monitoring system is not discoverable or admissible in any civil or administrative action, except in an investigation and disciplinary proceeding by the department or the appropriate regulatory board.

(12) A prescriber or dispenser, or his or her designee, may have access to the information under this section which relates to a patient of that prescriber or dispenser as needed for the purpose of reviewing the patient's controlled drug prescription history. A prescriber or dispenser acting in good faith is immune from any civil, criminal, or administrative liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed for receiving or using information from the prescription drug monitoring program. This subsection does not create a private cause of action, and a person may not recover damages against a prescriber or dispenser authorized to access information under this subsection for accessing or failing to access such information.

Section 2. Paragraphs (d), (e), and (g) of subsection (3) of section 893.0551, Florida Statutes, are amended, paragraph (h) is added to subsection (3) of that section, and subsections (6) and (7) of that section are republished, to read:

893.0551 Public records exemption for the prescription drug monitoring program.—

(3) The department shall disclose such confidential and exempt information to the following persons or entities upon request and after using a verification process to ensure the legitimacy of the request as provided in s. 893.055:

(d) A health care practitioner, or his or her designee, who certifies that the information is necessary to provide medical treatment to a current patient in accordance with ss. 893.05 and 893.055.

(e) A pharmacist, or his or her designee, who certifies that the requested information will be used to dispense controlled substances to a current patient in accordance with ss. 893.04 and 893.055.

(g) The patient's pharmacy, prescriber, or dispenser, or the designee of the pharmacy, prescriber, or dispenser, who certifies that the information is necessary to provide medical treatment to his or her current patient in accordance with s. 893.055.

(h) An impaired practitioner consultant who has been authorized in writing by a participant in, or by a referral to, the impaired practitioner program to access and review information as provided in s. 893.055(7)(c)5.

(6) An agency or person who obtains any confidential and exempt information pursuant to this section must maintain the confidential and exempt status of that information and may not disclose such information unless authorized by law. Information shared with a state attorney pursuant to paragraph (3)(a) or paragraph (3)(c) may be released only in response to a discovery demand if such information is directly related to the criminal case for which the information was requested. Unrelated information may be released only upon an order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(7) A person who willfully and knowingly violates this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor April 1, 2016.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 1, 2016.