

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 580  
SPONSOR: Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care Committee and Senator Fasano  
SUBJECT: Controlled Substances  
DATE: January 7, 2004 REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Munroe	Wilson	HC	Favorable/CS
2.			CJ	
3.			AHS	
4.			AP	
5.				
6.				

## I. Summary:

The committee substitute creates a third degree felony offense for any person who, with the intent to injure or defraud any person or to facilitate any violation of specified prohibited acts under the Florida Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act, sells, manufactures, alters, delivers, utters, or possesses any counterfeit-resistant prescription blanks for controlled substances adopted by rule of the Department of Health (DOH).

The bill authorizes a pharmacist to record an oral prescription for a controlled substance electronically if permitted by federal law. The dispensing of Schedule II drugs in an emergency situation based upon an oral prescription is limited to a 72-hour supply. The dispensing of Schedule III controlled substances based upon an oral prescription is limited to a thirty-day supply. Procedures are specified for a pharmacist to verify the validity of the prescription for controlled substances listed in Schedule II, Schedule III or Schedule IV, and the identity of the individual obtaining any controlled substance.

Any controlled substance listed in Schedule III or Schedule IV may be dispensed by a pharmacist upon oral prescription if, before filling the prescription, the pharmacist reduces it to writing or records the prescription electronically if permitted by federal law. Such prescriptions must contain the date of the oral authorization. All written prescriptions for a controlled substance listed in Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV must include both a written and numerical notation of the quantity and a notation of the date with the abbreviated month written out on the face of the prescription. A pharmacist may not knowingly fill a prescription that has been forged for a controlled substance listed in Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV.

The bill requires DOH, by June 30, 2005, to design and establish an electronic system to monitor the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances listed in Schedules II, III, and IV by

health care practitioners within Florida and the dispensing of such controlled substances to an individual at a specific address within Florida by a pharmacy permitted or registered by the Board of Pharmacy. Data regarding controlled substances subject to the requirements of the monitoring system must be reported as soon as possible, but not more than 35 days after the date the controlled substance is dispensed, to DOH each time that such controlled substance is dispensed. The bill provides that a pharmacy may meet the reporting requirements by providing DOH an exchangeable disc or tape of each controlled substance listed in Schedules II, III, and IV which is dispensed. The bill provides exemptions from the data reporting requirements for controlled substances that are administered, dispensed, or ordered in specified settings or for specified categories of patients. DOH must determine by rule the data required to be reported under the prescription monitoring system, and such data may include any data required under s. 893.04, F.S. Any person who knowingly fails to report the dispensing of a controlled substance listed in Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV is liable for a first degree misdemeanor punishable by jail up to 1 year and a fine of up to \$1,000.

DOH must develop and adopt by rule the form and content for a counterfeit-resistant prescription blank which may be used by practitioners to prescribe a controlled substance listed in Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV. DOH may require the prescription blanks to be printed on distinctive, watermarked paper and to bear the preprinted name, address, and category of professional licensure of the practitioner and that practitioner's federal registry number for controlled substances.

The bill appropriates \$2,196,352, from the Grants and Donations Trust Fund to DOH and authorizes three positions to implement the electronic monitoring system and the counterfeit-resistant prescription blanks. The Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund may be not be used to implement or fund the system.

This bill amends section 893.04, Florida Statutes and creates ss. 831.311, 893.055 and 893.065, F.S., and two undesignated sections of law.

## **II. Present Situation:**

### **Prescription Monitoring Systems**

In an effort to control the diversion of controlled substances, over fifteen states have established prescription monitoring systems. Prescription monitoring systems collect prescription data from pharmacies in either paper or electronic format. The data may be reviewed and analyzed for educational, public health, and investigational purposes. The goals of prescription monitoring systems are dependent on the mission of the state agency that operates the program or uses the data. Each state that has implemented a prescription monitoring program has its own set of goals for its program.

Prescription monitoring systems may cover a specified number of controlled substances. Several states cover only controlled substances listed in Schedule II, while others cover a range of controlled substances listed in Schedules II through V. Prescription monitoring systems may combine the use of serialized prescription forms by prescribing practitioners that are tracked by state officials and an electronic data system that tracks the prescriptions. California and Texas

are the only states to require the use of a serialized triplicate prescription form. New York recently moved from the use of a triplicate prescription form to a serialized single copy, effective June 1, 2001. Each program achieves different objectives and offers advantages for drug diversion control efforts that cannot be achieved through either program acting alone. A multiple-copy prescription or single-copy prescription serialized form program provides the opportunity, through analysis of the data, to identify the prescribers who may be involved in inappropriate prescribing and patients who may be “doctor shopping” for prescription drugs. A multiple-copy prescription or single-copy serialized form program discourages “doctor shopping” by persons who visit several unsuspecting physicians during a short period of time and obtain prescriptions for controlled substances by feigning illness and other illegal behavior. The use of a serialized form, be it single, duplicate, or triplicate, may provide the following advantages:

- Eliminates almost all forgeries and counterfeit prescriptions.
- Prevents unlicensed persons or practitioners who have been disciplined from writing prescriptions for heavily abused drugs, without affecting prescriptions for non-abused drugs.
- Significantly reduces emergency room visits involving drugs requiring the form, as reported by the Drug Abuse Warning Network program of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.
- Increases pharmacists’ ability to determine whether the prescriptions are valid and written for the patient submitting the form.
- Provides strong evidence in diversion cases because each serialized form is assigned to a specific, individual practitioner.
- Provides an evidence trail beginning with the practitioner's signature on the form for the prescription blanks and, later in the process, additional information is added including the patient's name, the drug, the dispensing pharmacy and the dispensing pharmacist, thereby providing an audit trail for the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances for state regulatory and law enforcement officials.
- Provides physicians with the convenience of a permanent record for their patient files of each prescription written.

Advantages of an electronic prescription data collection system include the following:

- Identifies “doctor shoppers” by tracking all their prescribing physicians and purchases from pharmacies.
- Provides complete and reliable information on prescribing and dispensing activities so that investigators can identify, rank and set priorities for cases.
- Maximizes investigators’ effectiveness by providing prescription data in a convenient, comprehensive and timely method.
- Reduces intrusion into professional practices because investigators no longer need to make office visits to gather information on practitioner prescribing patterns.
- Reduces the need for investigators to make pharmacy visits in order to gather data on pharmacy or pharmacists’ dispensing patterns.

## Controlled Substances

Chapter 893, F.S., sets forth the Florida Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act. The chapter classifies controlled substances into five schedules in order to regulate the manufacture, distribution, preparation, and dispensing of the substances. Substances in Schedule I have a high potential for abuse and have no currently accepted medical use in the United States. Schedule II drugs have a high potential for abuse and a severely restricted medical use. Cocaine and morphine are examples of Schedule II drugs. Schedule III controlled substances have less potential for abuse than Schedule I or Schedule II substances and have some accepted medical use. Substances listed in Schedule III include anabolic steroids, codeine, and derivatives of barbituric acid. Schedule IV and Schedule V substances have a low potential for abuse, compared to substances in Schedules I, II, and III, and currently have accepted medical use. Substances in Schedule IV include phenobarbital, librium, and valium. Substances in Schedule V include certain stimulants and narcotic compounds. Section 893.02, F.S., defines practitioner to mean a licensed medical physician, a licensed dentist, a licensed veterinarian, a licensed osteopathic physician, a licensed naturopathic physician, or a licensed podiatrist, if such practitioner holds a valid federal controlled substance registry number. The prescribing of controlled substances is a privilege that is separate from the regulation of the practice of the prescribing practitioner.

Section 893.05, F.S., allows a practitioner, in good faith and in the course of his or her professional practice only to prescribe, administer, dispense, mix, or otherwise prepare a controlled substance, or the practitioner may direct the administration of a controlled substance by a licensed nurse or an intern practitioner under his or her direction and supervision.

Section 893.04, F.S., authorizes a pharmacist, in good faith and in the course of professional practice only to dispense controlled substances upon a written or oral prescription under specified conditions. An oral prescription for controlled substances must be promptly reduced to writing by the pharmacist. The written prescription must be dated and signed by the prescribing practitioner on the day when issued. There must appear on the face of the prescription or written record for the controlled substance: the full name and address of the person for whom, or the owner of the animal for which, the controlled substance is dispensed; the full name and address of the prescribing practitioner and the prescriber's federal controlled substance registry number must be printed thereon; if the prescription is for an animal, the species of animal for which the controlled substance is prescribed; the name of the controlled substance prescribed and the strength, quantity, and directions for the use thereof; the number of the prescription, as recorded in the prescription files of the pharmacy in which it is filed; and the initials of the pharmacist filling the prescription and the date filled. Section 893.04(1)(d), F.S., requires the proprietor of the pharmacy in which a prescription for controlled substances is filled to retain the prescription on file for a period of 2 years. The chapter requires the original container in which a controlled substance is dispensed to bear a label with specified information.

Chapter 893, F.S., imposes other limitations on controlled substance prescriptions. A prescription for a Schedule II controlled substance may be dispensed only upon a written prescription of a practitioner, except in an emergency situation, as defined by regulation of DOH, when such controlled substance may be dispensed upon oral prescription. No prescription for a Schedule II

controlled substance may be refilled.<sup>1</sup> No prescription for a controlled substance listed in Schedules III, IV, or V may be filled or refilled more than five times within a period of 6 months after the date on which the prescription was written unless the prescription is renewed by a practitioner.<sup>2</sup> A pharmacist may dispense a one-time emergency refill of up to a 72-hour supply of the prescribed medication for any medicinal drug other than a medicinal drug listed in Schedule II.<sup>3</sup>

### **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996**

On December 20, 2000, President Clinton issued landmark rules to protect the privacy of peoples' medical records. The 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)<sup>4</sup> required the Administration to issue regulations protecting the privacy of health information. The United States Department of Health and Human Services issued Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information on December 28, 2000, which were originally scheduled to go into effect on February 26, 2001. The effective date for the regulations was delayed and the regulations took effect on April 14, 2003. The regulations only apply to health plans, health care clearinghouses and certain health care providers. The regulations permit states to afford greater privacy protections to health information.<sup>5</sup> Exceptions for state law are provided for public health (authority, power, or procedures established under any law providing for the reporting of disease or injury, child abuse, birth, or death, public health surveillance, or public health investigation or intervention) and state regulatory reporting (the ability of a state to require a health plan to report, or to provide access to, information for management audits, financial audits, program monitoring and evaluation, facility licensure or certification, or individual licensure or certification).<sup>6</sup>

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1.** Creates s. 831.311, F.S., to create a third degree felony offense for any person who, with the intent to injure or defraud any person or to facilitate any violation of specified prohibited acts (s. 893.13, F.S.) under the Florida Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act, sells, manufactures, alters, delivers, utters, or possesses any counterfeit-resistant prescription blanks for controlled substances the form and content of which are adopted by rule of DOH pursuant to s. 893.065, F.S. A third degree felony is punishable by imprisonment up to 5 years and a fine up to \$5,000.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 893.04(1)(f), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 893.04(1)(g), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> See 21 CFR 1306.11 (d)(1) which provides that in an emergency situation, a pharmacist may dispense a Schedule II controlled substance upon receiving oral authorization of a prescribing practitioner if the quantity prescribed and dispensed is limited to the amount adequate to treat the patient during the emergency period.

<sup>4</sup> Section 262 of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191, enacted on August 21, 1996, directed the United States Department of Health and Human Services to develop standards to protect the security, including the confidentiality and integrity, of health information.

<sup>5</sup> Sections 60.201, 160.203, 160.204, and 160.205, C.F.R.

<sup>6</sup> The federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) generally preempts state health information privacy laws, unless they provide a higher level of protection than the act. (Pub. L. No.104-191, §262, 110 Stat. 1936, 2029.) However, these state privacy provisions may not be preempted if the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that the state law has as its principal purpose the regulation of the manufacture, registration, distribution, dispensing, or other control of any controlled substances (as defined in 21 U.S.C. §802), or that is deemed a controlled substance by state law. (45 C.F.R. § 160.203 (a)(2)). See also, 42 U.S.C.A § 1320d-7.

**Section 2.** Amends s. 893.04, F.S., to authorize a pharmacist to record an oral prescription for controlled substances electronically if permitted by federal law. The bill limits the dispensing of Schedule II drugs in an emergency situation based upon an oral prescription to a 72-hour supply. A pharmacist is prohibited from dispensing a controlled substance in Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV to any patient or the patient's agent without first determining, in the exercise of her or his professional judgment, that the order is valid.

The pharmacist or pharmacist's agent must obtain the patient or patient's agent identification information, in writing, electronic format or other approved manner prior to dispensing any controlled substance. If the patient or patient's agent does not have appropriate identification, the pharmacist may dispense the controlled substance only when the pharmacist determines, using his or her professional judgment that the order is valid and includes such information in the patient's record. The Board of Pharmacy may adopt by administrative rule, required patient identification information for controlled substances and procedures for a pharmacist to verify the validity of a prescription for controlled substances for circumstances in which the pharmacist was not provided required identification information.

Any pharmacist that dispenses a controlled substance listed in Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV, when dispensed by mail, is exempt from the requirement to obtain suitable identification.

Any controlled substance listed in Schedule III or Schedule IV may be dispensed by a pharmacist upon oral prescription if, before filling the prescription the pharmacist reduces it to writing or records the prescription electronically if permitted by federal law. Such prescriptions must contain the date of the oral authorization.

All written prescriptions prescribed by a practitioner in Florida for a controlled substance listed in Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV must include both a written and numerical notation of the quantity and a notation of the date with the abbreviated month written out on the face of the prescription. A pharmacist is permitted, upon verification from the prescriber, to document any information required on the prescription.

A pharmacist may not dispense more than a 30-day supply of a Schedule III controlled substance based upon an oral prescription. A pharmacist may not knowingly fill a prescription that has been forged for a controlled substance listed in Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV.

**Section 3.** Creates s. 893.055, F.S., to require DOH, by June 30, 2005, to design and establish an electronic system to monitor the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances listed in Schedules II, III, and IV by health care practitioners within Florida and the dispensing of such controlled substances to an individual at a specific address within Florida by a pharmacy permitted or registered by the Board of Pharmacy. The design of the electronic prescription monitoring system must be consistent with American Society for Automation in Pharmacy standards. Data regarding controlled substances subject to the requirements of the monitoring system must be reported as soon as possible, but not more than 35 days after the date the controlled substance is dispensed, to DOH each time that such controlled substance is dispensed. A pharmacy may meet the reporting requirements for the data required to be reported under the

prescription monitoring system by providing DOH an exchangeable electronic disc or tape of each controlled substance which is dispensed. DOH must determine by rule the data required to be reported under the prescription monitoring system, and such data may include any data required under s. 893.04, F.S.

Exceptions to the reporting requirements under the electronic monitoring system are created for controlled substances or drugs that are: (1) administered by a health care practitioner directly to a patient; (2) dispensed by a health care practitioner directly to a patient and limited to an amount adequate to treat the patient for a period of no more than 72 hours; (3) dispensed by a health care practitioner or pharmacist to an in-patient of a facility with an institutional pharmacy permit; (4) prescribed by a health care practitioner for a patient less than 16 years of age; (5) ordered from an institutional pharmacy permitted under s. 465.019, F.S., in accordance with institutional policy for such controlled substances or drugs; or (6) dispensed by a pharmacist or administered by a health care practitioner to a patient or resident receiving care from a hospital, nursing home, assisted living facility, home health agency, hospice or intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled which is licensed in Florida.

A practitioner or pharmacist who dispenses a controlled substance must transmit the information required under the prescription monitoring system in an electronic or other format approved by DOH. The bill provides that the cost to the dispenser in submitting the required information shall not be material or extraordinary as specified in the bill. The information submitted to DOH under the prescription monitoring system may be transmitted to any person or agency authorized to receive it, and that person or agency may maintain the information received for up to 24 months before purging it from its records. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any authorized agency receiving such information may maintain it longer than 24 months if the information is pertinent to an ongoing investigation.

Any person who knowingly fails to report the dispensing of a controlled substance listed in Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV as required by this section is liable for a first degree misdemeanor punishable by jail up to 1 year and a fine of up to \$1,000.

DOH and the regulatory boards for the health care practitioners must adopt rules to implement and administer this section. DOH must cover all costs for the prescription monitoring system, and an amount necessary to cover such costs is to be appropriated annually, subject to the availability of funds, out of the Grants and Donations Trust Fund. The Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund may not be used to implement or otherwise fund the electronic prescription monitoring program.

**Section 4.** Creates s. 893.065, F.S., to require DOH to develop and adopt by rule the form and content for a counterfeit-resistant prescription blank which may be used by practitioners to prescribe a controlled substance listed in Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV. DOH may require the prescription blanks to be printed on distinctive, watermarked paper and to bear the preprinted name, address, and category of professional licensure of the practitioner and that practitioner's federal registry number for controlled substances. The prescription blanks may not be transferred.

**Section 5.** Appropriates \$2,196,352 from the Grants and Donations Trust Fund to DOH, and three positions are authorized for fiscal year 2004-2005 to implement the electronic monitoring system and the counterfeit-resistant prescription blanks.

**Section 6.** Provides that the penalties created in ss. 831.311(2) and 893.055(6), F.S., are effective only upon the adoption by DOH and each applicable professional regulatory board of the rules required pursuant to ss. 893.055(7) and 893.065, F.S., as created in the bill.

**Section 7.** Provides that this act shall take effect on July 1, 2005, if SB 578 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes law.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

##### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

The provisions of this bill have no impact on municipalities and the counties under the requirements of Article VII, s. 18 of the Florida Constitution.

##### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

An exemption to the Public Records Law for the identity of patients in the information and reports filed with DOH is being addressed in separate legislation (SB 578).

##### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

The provisions of this bill have no impact on the trust fund restrictions under the requirements of Article III, Subsection 19(f) of the Florida Constitution.

##### **D. Other Constitutional Issues:**

The bill requires the Department of Health to determine by rule the data required to be reported under the prescription monitoring system, and such data may include any data required under s. 893.04, F.S., and must include the category of professional licensure of the prescribing practitioner. The bill imposes criminal penalties for any person who knowingly fails to report the dispensing of a controlled substance listed in Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV as required by this bill. Such persons are liable for a first degree misdemeanor punishable by jail up to 1 year and a fine of up to \$1,000. To the extent the bill does not state what data must be reported and delegates that function to the Department of Health, it raises an issue as to whether the legislative delegation to the department to by rule determine what data must be reported constitutes a proper delegation. The delegation also raises an issue on whether such delegation allows an administrative agency to define the elements of a crime. Article I, Section 18 of the Florida Constitution provides that:

No administrative agency, except the Department of Military Affairs in an appropriately convened court-martial action as provided by law, shall impose a sentence of imprisonment, nor shall it impose any other penalty except as provided by law.

In addressing the question “how much of a role may administrative agencies take in defining the elements of a crime,” the Florida Supreme Court has declared that Article I, Section 18 of the Florida Constitution which states that no administrative agency shall impose sentence of imprisonment nor shall it impose any other penalty except as provided by law, though speaking only to quasi-adjudicatory powers of some administrative agencies, nevertheless embodies an overall constitutional policy that administrative agencies may not create criminal statute or its equivalent and prescribe the penalty. See *B.H. v. State*, 645 So.2d 987, 46 A.L.R. 5<sup>th</sup> 877 (1994), certiorari denied 115 S.Ct. 2559, 515 U.S. 1132, 132 L.Ed.2d 812.

**V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

Schedule III controlled substance prescriptions intended to cover more than a 30-day supply must be in writing under the bill. Consumers who currently may obtain such drugs through an oral prescription may bear additional costs for medical visits to obtain prescriptions beyond a 30-day supply.

Pharmacies and other dispensers will incur costs to comply with the reporting requirements under the prescription monitoring system.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

DOH will incur costs to design and establish an electronic prescription monitoring system and to develop counterfeit-resistant prescription blanks in Florida for controlled substances listed in Schedules II, III, and IV. The department did not provide a fiscal impact of the bill but in similar legislation filed during the 2003 Legislative Session the fiscal impact was reported to be: \$2,196,352 in FY 2004-2005 and \$2,545,390 in FY 2005-2006 for three positions, contracted systems staff, and software and hardware for the controlled substances monitoring system. Funding will come from a \$2.15 million agreement with OxyContin distributor Purdue Pharma L.P. to develop a state-of-the-art software program to prevent individuals from “doctor shopping” for improper narcotics prescriptions. Additional funds will be available through application for various grants.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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