ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 94–COMMITTEE
ON COMMERCE AND LABOR

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON HEALTH CARE)

PREFILED JANUARY 24, 2019

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Requires certain information concerning prescriptions of controlled substances to be provided to certain licensing boards and professionals who prescribe such controlled substances. (BDR 54-447)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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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 controlled substances; requiring certain professional licensing boards that regulate prescriptions for controlled substances or practitioners who issue such prescriptions to develop and disseminate an explanation or technical advisory bulletin concerning certain requirements relating to such prescriptions; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires certain medical providers, other than veterinarians, and certain institutions (practitioners) to obtain a patient utilization report from the computerized program for monitoring prescriptions of controlled substances before issuing certain prescriptions for controlled substances. (NRS 639.23507) Existing law also requires such practitioners to consider certain factors before prescribing a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV by the State Board of Pharmacy. (NRS 639.23915) Existing law imposes certain more stringent requirements when such practitioners prescribe those controlled substances for the treatment of pain. (NRS 639.2391-639.23914) **Section 7** of this bill requires the State Board of Pharmacy to develop and disseminate to each professional licensing board that licenses a practitioner who is authorized to prescribe controlled substances or make available on the Internet website of the Board an explanation or a technical advisory bulletin to inform those professional licensing boards of those requirements and to update those explanations or bulletins as necessary. **Sections**

1-6 of this bill require each of those professional licensing boards to develop and disseminate or make available to each licensee who is authorized to prescribe controlled substances a similar explanation or bulletin concerning those requirements and the procedures for imposing disciplinary action upon a licensee who violates those requirements.

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

Section 1. NRS 630.323 is hereby amended to read as follows:

630.323 1. The Executive Director of the Board or his or her designee shall review and evaluate any complaint or information received from the Investigation Division of the Department of Public Safety or the State Board of Pharmacy, including, without limitation, information provided pursuant to NRS 453.164, or from a law enforcement agency, professional licensing board or any other source indicating that:

(a) A licensee has issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription for a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV;

(b) A pattern of prescriptions issued by a licensee indicates that the licensee has issued prescriptions in the manner described in paragraph (a); or

(c) A patient of a licensee has acquired, used or possessed a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV in a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate manner.

2. If the Executive Director of the Board or his or her designee receives information described in subsection 1 concerning the licensee, the Executive Director or his or her designee must notify the licensee as soon as practicable after receiving the information.

3. A review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1 must include, without limitation:

(a) A review of relevant information contained in the database of the program established pursuant to NRS 453.162;

(b) A requirement that the licensee who is the subject of the review and evaluation attest that he or she has complied with the requirements of NRS 639.23507, 639.2391, 639.23911 and 639.23915, as applicable; and

(c) A request for additional relevant information from the licensee who is the subject of the review and evaluation.

4. If, after a review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1, the Executive Director or his or her designee determines that a licensee may have issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription for a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV, the Board must proceed as

if a written complaint had been filed against the licensee. If, after conducting an investigation and a hearing in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, the Board determines that the licensee issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription, the Board must impose appropriate disciplinary action.

5. When deemed appropriate, the Executive Director of the Board may:

(a) Refer information acquired during a review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1 to another professional licensing board, law enforcement agency or other appropriate governmental entity for investigation and criminal or administrative proceedings.

(b) Postpone any notification, review or part of such a review required by this section if he or she determines that it is necessary to avoid interfering with any pending administrative or criminal investigation into the suspected fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescribing, dispensing or use of a controlled substance.

6. The Board shall ~~[adopt]~~ ***:***

(a) Adopt regulations providing for disciplinary action against a licensee for inappropriately prescribing a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV or violating the provisions of NRS 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy pursuant thereto. Such disciplinary action must include, without limitation, requiring the licensee to complete additional continuing education concerning prescribing controlled substances listed in schedules II, III and IV.

(b) Develop and disseminate to each physician and physician assistant licensed pursuant to this chapter or make available on the Internet website of the Board an explanation or a technical advisory bulletin to inform those physicians and physician assistants of the requirements of this section and NRS 630.324, 639.23507 and 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto. The Board shall update the explanation or bulletin as necessary to include any revisions to those provisions of law or regulations. The explanation or bulletin must include, without limitation, an explanation of the requirements that apply to specific controlled substances or categories of controlled substances.

Sec. 2. NRS 631.364 is hereby amended to read as follows:

631.364 1. The Executive Director of the Board or his or her designee shall review and evaluate any complaint or information received from the Investigation Division of the Department of Public Safety or the State Board of Pharmacy, including, without limitation, information provided pursuant to NRS 453.164, or from

a law enforcement agency, professional licensing board or any other source indicating that:

(a) A licensee has issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription for a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV;

(b) A pattern of prescriptions issued by a licensee indicates that the licensee has issued prescriptions in the manner described in paragraph (a); or

(c) A patient of a licensee has acquired, used or possessed a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV in a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate manner.

2. If the Executive Director of the Board or his or her designee receives information described in subsection 1 concerning the licensee, the Executive Director or his or her designee must notify the licensee as soon as practicable after receiving the information.

3. A review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1 must include, without limitation:

(a) A review of relevant information contained in the database of the program established pursuant to NRS 453.162;

(b) A requirement that the licensee who is the subject of the review and evaluation attest that he or she has complied with the requirements of NRS 639.23507, 639.2391, 639.23911 and 639.23915, as applicable; and

(c) A request for additional relevant information from the licensee who is the subject of the review and evaluation.

4. If, after a review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1, the Executive Director or his or her designee determines that a licensee may have issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription for a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV, the Board must proceed as if a written complaint had been filed against the licensee. If, after conducting an investigation and a hearing in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, the Board determines that the licensee issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription, the Board must impose appropriate disciplinary action.

5. When deemed appropriate, the Executive Director of the Board may:

(a) Refer information acquired during a review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1 to another professional licensing board, law enforcement agency or other appropriate governmental entity for investigation and criminal or administrative proceedings.

(b) Postpone any notification, review or part of such a review required by this section if he or she determines that it is necessary to avoid interfering with any pending administrative or criminal investigation into the suspected fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or

otherwise inappropriate prescribing, dispensing or use of a controlled substance.

6. The Board shall ~~[adopt]~~ ***:***

(a) Adopt regulations providing for disciplinary action against a licensee for inappropriately prescribing a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV or violating the provisions of NRS 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy pursuant thereto. Such disciplinary action must include, without limitation, requiring the licensee to complete additional continuing education concerning prescribing controlled substances listed in schedules II, III and IV.

(b) Develop and disseminate to each dentist licensed pursuant to this chapter or make available on the Internet website of the Board an explanation or a technical advisory bulletin to inform those dentists of the requirements of this section and NRS 631.365, 639.23507 and 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto. The Board shall update the explanation or bulletin as necessary to include any revisions to those provisions of law or regulations. The explanation or bulletin must include, without limitation, an explanation of the requirements that apply to specific controlled substances or categories of controlled substances.

Sec. 3. NRS 632.352 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.352 1. The Executive Director of the Board or his or her designee shall review and evaluate any complaint or information received from the Investigation Division of the Department of Public Safety or the State Board of Pharmacy, including, without limitation, information provided pursuant to NRS 453.164, or from a law enforcement agency, professional licensing board or any other source indicating that:

(a) A licensee has issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription for a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV;

(b) A pattern of prescriptions issued by a licensee indicates that the licensee has issued prescriptions in the manner described in paragraph (a); or

(c) A patient of a licensee has acquired, used or possessed a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV in a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate manner.

2. If the Executive Director of the Board or his or her designee receives information described in subsection 1 concerning the licensee, the Executive Director or his or her designee must notify the licensee as soon as practicable after receiving the information.

3. A review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1 must include, without limitation:

(a) A review of relevant information contained in the database of the program established pursuant to NRS 453.162;

(b) A requirement that the licensee who is the subject of the review and evaluation attest that he or she has complied with the requirements of NRS 639.23507, 639.2391, 639.23911 and 639.23915, as applicable; and

(c) A request for additional relevant information from the licensee who is the subject of the review and evaluation.

4. If, after a review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1, the Executive Director or his or her designee determines that a licensee may have issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription for a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV, the Board must proceed as if a written complaint had been filed against the licensee. If, after conducting an investigation and a hearing in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, the Board determines that the licensee issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription, the Board must impose appropriate disciplinary action.

5. When deemed appropriate, the Executive Director of the Board may:

(a) Refer information acquired during a review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1 to another professional licensing board, law enforcement agency or other appropriate governmental entity for investigation and criminal or administrative proceedings.

(b) Postpone any notification, review or part of such a review required by this section if he or she determines that it is necessary to avoid interfering with any pending administrative or criminal investigation into the suspected fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescribing, dispensing or use of a controlled substance.

6. The Board shall ~~[adopt]~~ ***:***

(a) Adopt regulations providing for disciplinary action against a licensee for inappropriately prescribing a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV or violating the provisions of NRS 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy pursuant thereto. Such disciplinary action must include, without limitation, requiring the licensee to complete additional continuing education concerning prescribing controlled substances listed in schedules II, III and IV.

(b) Develop and disseminate to each advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to NRS 632.237 or make available on the Internet website of the Board an explanation or a technical advisory bulletin to inform those advanced practice registered nurses of the requirements of this section and NRS 632.353, 639.23507 and 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive, and any

regulations adopted pursuant thereto. The Board shall update the explanation or bulletin as necessary to include any revisions to those provisions of law or regulations. The explanation or bulletin must include, without limitation, an explanation of the requirements that apply to specific controlled substances or categories of controlled substances.

Sec. 4. NRS 633.574 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.574 1. The Executive Director of the Board or his or her designee shall review and evaluate any complaint or information received from the Investigation Division of the Department of Public Safety or the State Board of Pharmacy, including, without limitation, information provided pursuant to NRS 453.164, or from a law enforcement agency, professional licensing board or any other source indicating that:

(a) A licensee has issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription for a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV;

(b) A pattern of prescriptions issued by a licensee indicates that the licensee has issued prescriptions in the manner described in paragraph (a); or

(c) A patient of a licensee has acquired, used or possessed a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV in a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate manner.

2. If the Executive Director of the Board or his or her designee receives information described in subsection 1 concerning the licensee, the Executive Director or his or her designee must notify the licensee as soon as practicable after receiving the information.

3. A review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1 must include, without limitation:

(a) A review of relevant information contained in the database of the program established pursuant to NRS 453.162;

(b) A requirement that the licensee who is the subject of the review and evaluation attest that he or she has complied with the requirements of NRS 639.23507, 639.2391, 639.23911 and 639.23915, as applicable; and

(c) A request for additional relevant information from the licensee who is the subject of the review and evaluation.

4. If, after a review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1, the Executive Director or his or her designee determines that a licensee may have issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription for a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV, the Board must proceed as if a written complaint had been filed against the licensee. If, after conducting an investigation and a hearing in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, the Board determines that the licensee

issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription, the Board must impose appropriate disciplinary action.

5. When deemed appropriate, the Executive Director of the Board may:

(a) Refer information acquired during a review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1 to another professional licensing board, law enforcement agency or other appropriate governmental entity for investigation and criminal or administrative proceedings.

(b) Postpone any notification, review or part of such a review required by this section if he or she determines that it is necessary to avoid interfering with any pending administrative or criminal investigation into the suspected fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescribing, dispensing or use of a controlled substance.

6. The Board shall ~~[adopt]~~ ***:***

(a) Adopt regulations providing for disciplinary action against a licensee for inappropriately prescribing a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV or violating the provisions of NRS 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy pursuant thereto. Such disciplinary action must include, without limitation, requiring the licensee to complete additional continuing education concerning prescribing controlled substances listed in schedules II, III and IV.

(b) Develop and disseminate to each osteopathic physician and physician assistant licensed pursuant to this chapter or make available on the Internet website of the Board an explanation or a technical advisory bulletin to inform those osteopathic physicians and physician assistants of the requirements of this section and NRS 633.577, 639.23507 and 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto. The Board shall update the explanation or bulletin as necessary to include any revisions to those provisions of law or regulations. The explanation or bulletin must include, without limitation, an explanation of the requirements that apply to specific controlled substances or categories of controlled substances.

Sec. 5. NRS 635.152 is hereby amended to read as follows:

635.152 1. The President of the Board or his or her designee shall review and evaluate any complaint or information received from the Investigation Division of the Department of Public Safety or the State Board of Pharmacy, including, without limitation, information provided pursuant to NRS 453.164, or from a law enforcement agency, professional licensing board or any other source indicating that:

(a) A licensee has issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription for a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV;

(b) A pattern of prescriptions issued by a licensee indicates that the licensee has issued prescriptions in the manner described in paragraph (a); or

(c) A patient of a licensee has acquired, used or possessed a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV in a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate manner.

2. If the President of the Board or his or her designee receives information described in subsection 1 concerning the licensee, the President or his or her designee must notify the licensee as soon as practicable after receiving the information.

3. A review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1 must include, without limitation:

(a) A review of relevant information contained in the database of the program established pursuant to NRS 453.162;

(b) A requirement that the licensee who is the subject of the review and evaluation attest that he or she has complied with the requirements of NRS 639.23507, 639.2391, 639.23911 and 639.23915, as applicable; and

(c) A request for additional relevant information from the licensee who is the subject of the review and evaluation.

4. If, after a review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1, the President or his or her designee determines that a licensee may have issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription for a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV, the Board must proceed as if a written complaint had been filed against the licensee. If, after conducting an investigation and a hearing in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, the Board determines that the licensee issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription, the Board must impose appropriate disciplinary action.

5. When deemed appropriate, the President of the Board may:

(a) Refer information acquired during a review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1 to another professional licensing board, law enforcement agency or other appropriate governmental entity for investigation and criminal or administrative proceedings.

(b) Postpone any notification, review or part of such a review required by this section if he or she determines that it is necessary to avoid interfering with any pending administrative or criminal investigation into the suspected fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescribing, dispensing or use of a controlled substance.

6. The Board shall ~~[adopt]~~ ***:***

(a) Adopt regulations providing for disciplinary action against a licensee for inappropriately prescribing a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV or violating the provisions of NRS 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy pursuant thereto. Such disciplinary action must include, without limitation, requiring the licensee to complete additional continuing education concerning prescribing controlled substances listed in schedules II, III and IV.

(b) Develop and disseminate to each podiatric physician licensed pursuant to this chapter or make available on the Internet website of the Board an explanation or a technical advisory bulletin to inform those podiatric physicians of the requirements of this section and NRS 635.153, 639.23507 and 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto. The Board shall update the explanation or bulletin as necessary to include any revisions to those provisions of law or regulations. The explanation or bulletin must include, without limitation, an explanation of the requirements that apply to specific controlled substances or categories of controlled substances.

Sec. 6. NRS 636.338 is hereby amended to read as follows:

636.338 1. The Executive Director of the Board or his or her designee shall review and evaluate any complaint or information received from the Investigation Division of the Department of Public Safety or the State Board of Pharmacy, including, without limitation, information provided pursuant to NRS 453.164, or from a law enforcement agency, professional licensing board or any other source indicating that:

(a) A licensee has issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription for a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV;

(b) A pattern of prescriptions issued by a licensee indicates that the licensee has issued prescriptions in the manner described in paragraph (a); or

(c) A patient of a licensee has acquired, used or possessed a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV in a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate manner.

2. If the Executive Director of the Board or his or her designee receives information described in subsection 1 concerning the licensee, the Executive Director or his or her designee must notify the licensee as soon as practicable after receiving the information.

3. A review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1 must include, without limitation:

(a) A review of relevant information contained in the database of the program established pursuant to NRS 453.162;

(b) A requirement that the licensee who is the subject of the review and evaluation attest that he or she has complied with the requirements of NRS 639.23507, 639.2391, 639.23911 and 639.23915, as applicable; and

(c) A request for additional relevant information from the licensee who is the subject of the review and evaluation.

4. If, after a review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1, the Executive Director or his or her designee determines that a licensee may have issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription for a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV, the Board must proceed as if a written complaint had been filed against the licensee. If, after conducting an investigation and a hearing in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, the Board determines that the licensee issued a fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescription, the Board must impose appropriate disciplinary action.

5. When deemed appropriate, the Executive Director of the Board may:

(a) Refer information acquired during a review and evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 1 to another professional licensing board, law enforcement agency or other appropriate governmental entity for investigation and criminal or administrative proceedings.

(b) Postpone any notification, review or part of such a review required by this section if he or she determines that it is necessary to avoid interfering with any pending administrative or criminal investigation into the suspected fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate prescribing, dispensing or use of a controlled substance.

6. The Board shall ~~[adopt]~~ ***:***

(a) Adopt regulations providing for disciplinary action against a licensee for inappropriately prescribing a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV or violating the provisions of NRS 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy pursuant thereto. Such disciplinary action must include, without limitation, requiring the licensee to complete additional continuing education concerning prescribing controlled substances listed in schedules II, III and IV.

(b) Develop and disseminate to each optometrist who is certified to prescribe and administer therapeutic pharmaceutical agents pursuant to NRS 636.288 or make available on the Internet website of the Board an explanation or a technical advisory bulletin to inform those optometrists of the requirements of this section and NRS 636.339, 639.23507 and 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto. The Board shall update the explanation or bulletin as necessary to

include any revisions to those provisions of law or regulations. The explanation or bulletin must include, without limitation, an explanation of the requirements that apply to specific controlled substances or categories of controlled substances.

Sec. 7. NRS 639.23916 is hereby amended to read as follows:

639.23916 1. The Board may adopt any regulations necessary or convenient to enforce the provisions of NRS 639.23507 and 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive. Such regulations may impose additional requirements concerning the prescription of a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV by a practitioner, other than a veterinarian, for the treatment of pain.

2. ***The Board shall develop and disseminate to each professional licensing board that licenses a practitioner, other than a veterinarian, or make available on the Internet website of the Board an explanation or a technical advisory bulletin to inform those professional licensing boards of the requirements of NRS 639.23507 and 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto. The Board shall update the explanation or bulletin as necessary to include any revisions to those provisions of law or regulations. The explanation or bulletin must include, without limitation, an explanation of the requirements that apply to specific controlled substances or categories of controlled substances.***

3. A practitioner who violates any provision of NRS 639.23507 and 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive, or any regulations adopted pursuant thereto is:

(a) Not guilty of a misdemeanor; and

(b) Subject to professional discipline.

Sec. 8. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2019.

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