SUMMARY

- Requires the State Board of Pharmacy to develop a program to educate certain license holders and others about the authority of pharmacists and pharmacy interns to dispense naloxone without a prescription.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Naloxone education program

The drug naloxone, commonly known by the brand name Narcan, can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.\(^1\) Current law authorizes pharmacists and pharmacy interns to dispense naloxone without a prescription pursuant to a protocol established by the State Board of Pharmacy (see “Naloxone access without a prescription,” below).\(^2\)

The bill requires the Board to develop a program to educate the following individuals who engage in the sale or dispensing of naloxone without a prescription about the authority of pharmacists and pharmacy interns to dispense naloxone without a prescription:

- Holders of licenses issued by the Board, including pharmacies, pharmacists, and pharmacy interns;
- Registered pharmacy technicians, certified pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician trainees registered by the Board;

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\(^2\) R.C. 4729.44(B).
- Other individuals who are employed by license holders.\(^3\)

As part of the program, the Board also must educate these license holders, pharmacy technicians, and employees about (1) maintaining an adequate supply of naloxone and (2) methods for determining a pharmacy’s naloxone stock. The bill authorizes the Board to use its website to share information under the program.

**Naloxone access without a prescription**

Current law maintained by the bill allows a physician or local board of health to authorize one or more pharmacists and pharmacy interns to dispense naloxone without a prescription in accordance with a protocol established by the Board.\(^4\) Under this law, the pharmacist or intern may dispense naloxone without a prescription to either of the following:

- An individual who there is reason to believe is experiencing or at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose;
- A family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist such an individual.

### HISTORY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
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<tr>
<td>Introduced</td>
<td>02-21-19</td>
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<td>Reported, S. Health, Human Services &amp; Medicaid</td>
<td>10-10-19</td>
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<td>Passed Senate (31-0)</td>
<td>10-23-19</td>
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\(^3\) R.C. 4729.44(H).

\(^4\) R.C. 3707.56, not in the bill, 4729.44(B), and 4731.942, not in the bill.