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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

S.B. 59  
133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

[Click here for S.B. 59's Fiscal Note](#)

**Version:** As Passed by the Senate

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Antonio

Elizabeth Molnar, Attorney

### 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.<sup>1</sup> 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).<sup>2</sup>

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;

<sup>1</sup> U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, *Naloxone Injection*, available at <https://medlineplus.gov/druginfo/meds/a612022.html>.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4729.44(B).

- Other individuals who are employed by license holders.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup> 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.

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## **HISTORY**

Action	Date
Introduced	02-21-19
Reported, S. Health, Human Services & Medicaid	10-10-19
Passed Senate (31-0)	10-23-19

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. 4729.44(H).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 3707.56, not in the bill, 4729.44(B), and 4731.942, not in the bill.