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Office of Research
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Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 249 136th General Assembly	Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Lang and Johnson

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SUMMARY

- Permits a pharmacist or pharmacy intern to dispense ivermectin to an adult without a prescription under a protocol established by a prescriber.

- Permits a prescriber to create a protocol for a pharmacist or pharmacy intern to follow when dispensing ivermectin without a prescription.

- Permits a prescriber who establishes a protocol to authorize one or more pharmacists to use the protocol to dispense ivermectin without a prescription.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Dispensing ivermectin

S.B. 249 permits a pharmacist, or a pharmacy intern supervised by a pharmacist, to dispense ivermectin without a prescription to a person who is at least 18 years old. When dispensing ivermectin, a pharmacist or pharmacy intern must follow a protocol established by a prescriber (see "**Dispensing protocol**" below).[1] After dispensing ivermectin without a prescription, the pharmacist or pharmacy intern must inform the recipient's primary care provider, if known.[2] The bill does not impact a pharmacist or pharmacy intern's existing authority to fill or refill a prescription for ivermectin.[3]

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[1] R.C. 4729.44(B).

[2] R.C. 4729.44(D)(2).

[3] R.C. 4729.44(E).

When dispensing ivermectin without a prescription, a pharmacist or pharmacy intern may charge an administrative fee in addition to any other costs associated with the drug's dispensing.[4]

Dispensing protocol

A prescriber, including a physician, physician assistant, certified nurse-midwife, certified nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist, can create a protocol for a pharmacist or pharmacy intern to follow when dispensing ivermectin without a prescription. The protocol must (1) provide a screening risk assessment tool, (2) provide a standardized fact sheet that describes ivermectin's indications and contraindications, the appropriate method for using the drug, the importance of following up with a prescriber, and any other information required by the Board of Pharmacy, (3) include instructions for either dispensing the ivermectin or making a referral to a pharmacy that may dispense the drug as soon as practical, and (4) meet any other conditions established by the Board. The prescriber can also choose to include guidelines related to the dosage at which ivermectin should be dispensed and the duration of treatment with the drug.[5]

A prescriber who establishes an ivermectin dispensing protocol may authorize one or more pharmacists, including any pharmacy technicians working under those pharmacists, to use the protocol to dispense ivermectin without a prescription.[6]

Immunity

A pharmacist, pharmacy intern, or prescriber acting in good faith in accordance with the bill is not subject to criminal prosecution or professional disciplinary action for any action or omission during the drug's dispensing. The bill also specifies that a pharmacist or pharmacy intern who dispenses ivermectin as permitted by the bill, or a prescriber who authorizes the dispensing of ivermectin without a prescription, is not liable for damages in a civil action, except in cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct.[7]

Rulemaking

The Board of Pharmacy is required to consult with the State Medical Board and the Board of Nursing to adopt rules to implement the bill's provisions. The rules must specify minimum requirements for protocols established by prescribers under which pharmacists or pharmacy interns may dispense ivermectin without a prescription.[8]

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[4] R.C. 4729.44(D)(1).

[5] R.C. 4729.44(C).

[6] R.C. 4729.44(F).

[7] R.C. 4729.44(G).

[8] R.C. 4729.44(H).

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	08-27-25