

---

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

---

HB 284 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Abraham

**Abstract:** Institutes certain requirements for medical practitioners and pharmacists relative to prescribing and dispensing of opioid drugs.

Present law provides, with certain exceptions, that when issuing a first-time opioid prescription for outpatient use to a patient with an acute condition, a medical practitioner shall not issue a prescription for more than a seven-day supply of the opioid drug.

Present law authorizes a medical practitioner to prescribe more than a seven-day supply of an opioid drug if, in his professional medical judgment, more than a seven-day supply is necessary to treat the patient's condition. Requires that the condition necessitating more than a seven-day supply be documented in the patient's medical record, and that the practitioner indicate that a nonopioid alternative was not appropriate to address the patient's condition.

Proposed law retains present law and adds thereto a requirement that any practitioner who writes a prescription for more than a seven-day supply of an opioid, as authorized in present law, shall clearly indicate on the prescription order that the prescription is not subject to the seven-day limit on the supply of the opioid.

Proposed law provides that if a pharmacist fails to dispense the prescribed amount of an opioid drug, he shall notify the prescriber within 24 hours.

Present law authorizes a pharmacist filling a prescription for an opioid to dispense the drug in an amount less than the recommended full quantity indicated on the prescription if requested by the patient.

Proposed law retains present law and stipulates that if the patient does not request that his prescription for an opioid be dispensed in an amount less than the recommended full quantity indicated on the prescription, then the pharmacist shall dispense to the patient the full quantity indicated on the prescription. Provides that failure by a pharmacist to comply with this requirement may subject the pharmacist to disciplinary action by the La. Board of Pharmacy.

Proposed law requires that if a pharmacist limits the quantity of a controlled substance he dispenses as authorized or required by federal regulation, he shall notify the prescriber within 24 hours.

(Amends R.S. 40:978(G)(2) and (H)(2)(a))



## Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Delete provisions of proposed law that duplicate present law requiring that the quantity of a prescription drug be indicated on a prescription order.
2. Delete proposed law providing that failure by a medical practitioner to comply with proposed law shall be deemed unauthorized practice and a violation of the practitioner's practice standard, and shall subject the practitioner to disciplinary action by the health profession licensing board which issues his license.
3. Provide that if a pharmacist fails to dispense the prescribed amount of an opioid drug, he shall notify the prescriber within 24 hours.
4. Revise proposed law providing that failure by a pharmacist to comply with proposed law shall subject him to disciplinary action by the La. Board of Pharmacy to provide, instead, that the board may take disciplinary action in such cases.
5. Delete proposed law stipulating that proposed law shall not apply when a pharmacist limits the quantity of a controlled substance he dispenses as authorized or required by federal regulation.
6. Provide that if a pharmacist limits the quantity of a controlled substance he dispenses as authorized or required by federal regulation, he shall notify the prescriber within 24 hours.