

SUBJECT: Continuing communication between pharmacists and practitioners

COMMITTEE: Public Health — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — S. Thompson, Wray, Coleman, Frank, Guerra, Lucio, Ortega,
Price, Sheffield

0 nays

2 absent — Allison, Zedler

WITNESSES: For — Greg Hoke, Biotechnology Innovation Organization; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Justin Hudman, Amgen; Kwame Walker, Boehringer Ingelheim; Chase Bearden, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Lauren Fairbanks, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Tom Kowalski, Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute; Dan Finch, Texas Medical Association; Michael Wright, Texas Pharmacy Business Council; Idona Griffith; Michelle Reinhardt; Elisa Saslavsky)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Rick Fernandez, Walgreens Co.)

BACKGROUND: Occupations Code sec. 562.0051 governs the required communication between a pharmacist and prescribing practitioner after certain biological products are dispensed by pharmacists to patients. The dispensing pharmacist or the pharmacist's designee is required to communicate to the prescribing practitioner information about the provided product no later than the third business day after dispensing it. This section is scheduled to expire September 1, 2019.

DIGEST: HB 1264 would remove the expiration on the requirement for a pharmacist to communicate to a prescribing practitioner within three business days certain information about a biological product dispensed to a patient.

HB 1264
House Research Organization
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The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.

SUPPORTERS
SAY:

HB 1264 would ensure physicians continued receiving notifications from pharmacists when a substitution for a biological product was made. Continuing this communication would provide accurate information about a patient's treatment plan to all health professionals involved in the patient's care.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No concerns identified.