

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R645 MXM-D

S.B. 98
By: Nelson
Health and Human Services
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DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, health care facilities, especially long-term care facilities such as nursing homes, have problems with drug waste due to changes in doctors' orders, patient deaths, transfers, and human error in the administration of medications. Automated drug dispensing systems use computer technology to package and label single doses of drugs. Such devices can help to eliminate drug waste problems. S.B. 98 defines what automated drug dispensing systems are and authorizes the Board of Pharmacy to develop rules of implementation and use.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy in SECTION 1 (Section 562.109, Occupations Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 562C, Occupations Code, by adding Section 562.109, as follows:

Section 562.109. AUTOMATED PHARMACY SYSTEMS. (a) Defines "automated pharmacy system."

(b) Authorizes a Class A or Class C pharmacy to provide pharmacy services through an automated pharmacy system in a facility that is not in the same location as the Class A or Class C pharmacy.

(c) Requires that an automated pharmacy system be under continuous supervision of a pharmacist as determined by board rule. Authorizes continuous supervision to be done electronically without requiring the pharmacist to be physically present at the site.

(d) Authorizes an automated pharmacy system to be located at a health care facility regulated by the state.

(e) Requires the Texas State Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules regarding the use of an automated pharmacy system including the types of health care facilities at which one may be located, the record-keeping requirements, and the security requirements.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage.

SECTION 3. Requires the board to adopt the rules required by Section 562.109, Occupations Code, as added by this Act, by February 28, 2002.