

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5381

C 47 L 91

SYNOPSIS AS ENACTED

Brief Description: Allowing a veterinarian to dispense legend drugs prescribed by another veterinarian.

SPONSORS: Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators West, Gaspard, Bailey, Hansen, Bauer and L. Smith).

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

BACKGROUND:

The state Board of Pharmacy currently prohibits one Washington licensed veterinarian from filling a legend drug prescribed by another Washington licensed veterinarian. The board considers this activity the practice of pharmacy. A veterinarian must personally examine the animal before prescribing any legend drug. While consumers may have the option of having the prescription filled at a licensed pharmacy, many pharmacies often do not stock the types of animal treatment drugs involved. If a consumer is unable to return to the original veterinarian who wrote the prescription, he or she must have the animal reexamined by a second veterinarian who can then prescribe the legend drug. This second examination adds to the cost of treating the animal.

SUMMARY:

Veterinarians are permitted to fill prescriptions for legend drugs issued by another veterinarian. The dispensing of such drugs shall be limited to no more than 5 percent of the total proportion of dosage units dispensed annually by the dispensing veterinarian. Veterinarian legend drugs are defined. The dispensing veterinarian is required to maintain records of these dispensing activities.

VOTES ON FINAL PASSAGE:

Senate	46	0
House	93	0

EFFECTIVE: July 28, 1991