

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6105

As of January 17, 2012

Title: An act relating to the exemption of veterinarians from the data submission requirements of the prescription monitoring program.

Brief Description: Exempting veterinarians from the data submission requirements of the prescription monitoring program.

Sponsors: Senators Parlette, Hatfield, Conway, Becker, Keiser and Shin.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 1/16/12.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Veronica Warnock (786-7490)

Background: In 2007 legislation was enacted requiring the Department of Health (DOH) to implement a prescription drug monitoring program to monitor the prescribing and dispensing of schedule II through V controlled substances. Under the program, dispensers must electronically report information to DOH about each prescription dispensed. Dispensers include practitioners or pharmacies that deliver schedule II through V controlled substances to the ultimate user. The data submission requirements of this program do not apply to medications administered in single doses to patients receiving inpatient services or to medications dispensed to offenders in Department of Corrections institutions.

Summary of Bill: Veterinarians licensed under chapter 18.92 RCW are exempted from the data submission requirements of the prescription drug monitoring program.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Veterinarians prescribe controlled substances on a very limited basis. Many veterinarian practices are small one doctor offices that are not computerized or do not have the software necessary to electronically report. There are other safeguards in place which will prevent controlled substances prescribed by veterinarians from getting in the wrong hands. More than 45 percent of states with prescription monitoring programs do not require veterinarians to report.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Parlette, prime sponsor; Dr. Mike Bellinghausen, Greg Hanon, WA State Veterinary Medical Assn.