Washington State
House of Representatives
Office of Program Research

BILL ANALYSIS

Health Care & Wellness Committee

SSB 5027

Brief Description: Providing access to the prescription drug monitoring database for clinical laboratories.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Senators Angel, Darneille, Dammeier, Keiser, Parlette, Cleveland, Bailey and Chase).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Allows the Department of Health (Department) to provide data in the Prescription Monitoring Program to personnel of a test site that has an agreement with a person authorized to prescribe and dispense drugs for medical care.
- Requires test sites authorized to receive access to data in the Prescription Monitoring Program to be licensed by the Department and certified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Hearing Date: 3/25/15

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

Prescription Monitoring Program.
In 2007 the Department of Health (Department) was authorized to create a Prescription Monitoring Program (Program). The Program's stated purpose is to improve patient care and stop prescription drug misuse. Practitioners and pharmacies that dispense Schedule II, III, IV, and V drugs are required to report information regarding each drug prescription, for more than one day of use, identified as a Schedule II, III, IV, and V drugs to the Department. This information is then made available to authorized persons, such as medical providers and pharmacists.

Test Sites.

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.

A test site is any facility or site, public or private, which analyzes materials derived from the human body for the purposes of health care, treatment, or screening. A test site must be licensed by the state for the tests it performs.

In addition to state regulation, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) certifies laboratories through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The DHHS notifies federal agencies of the laboratories and instrumented initial testing facilities (IITF) currently certified to meet the standards of the Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs (Mandatory Guidelines). A notice listing all currently certified laboratories and IITFs is published in the Federal Register during the first week of each month. If any laboratory or IITF's certification is suspended or revoked, the laboratory or the IITF will be omitted from subsequent lists until it is restored to full certification under the Mandatory Guidelines.

Summary of Bill:

The Department of Health (Department) may provide data in the Prescription Monitoring Program (Program) to personnel of a test site pursuant to an agreement between the test site and a person with prescriptive or dispensing authority to provide assistance in determining which medications are being used by a patient under his or her care. The test site must be licensed by the Department and certified as a drug testing laboratory by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (Administration).

Test sites are prohibited from charging a fee for accessing the Program and may not store Program data in any form. Data may only be transmitted to other persons or entities that participate in the Program. A "responsible person," as designated by the Administration, must supervise the test site's access to data.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.