

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 5293

As Reported by House Committee On:
Health Care & Wellness

Title: An act relating to preserving the use of hydrocodone products by licensed optometrists in Washington state.

Brief Description: Concerning the use of hydrocodone products by licensed optometrists in Washington state.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Senators Becker, Keiser, Rivers, Conway, Dammeier, Hobbs, Angel, Frockt, Bailey, Ericksen, Mullet and Benton).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care & Wellness: 3/17/15, 3/18/15 [DP].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Allows the Optometry Board to add Schedule II hydrocodone combination products to the list of drugs an optometrist may use, prescribe, dispense, purchase, possess, or administer.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 15 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Riccelli, Vice Chair; Schmick, Ranking Minority Member; Harris, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Caldier, Clibborn, DeBolt, Jinkins, Johnson, Moeller, Robinson, Rodne, Short, Tharinger and Van De Wege.

Staff: Jim Morishima (786-7191).

Background:

Optometrist Prescriptive Authority.

Optometry consists of the examination of the human eye, the examination and ascertaining of any defects of the human vision system, and the analysis of the process of vision. In order to

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be licensed as an optometrist, a person must complete his or her high school education, graduate from an accredited school of optometry, and pass an examination.

A licensed optometrist may prescribe certain oral Schedule III-V controlled substances and oral legend drugs. The optometrist may only prescribe the drugs as appropriate for the treatment of diseases or conditions of the human eye and the adnexa that are within the scope of practice of optometry. An optometrist may not:

- prescribe, dispense, or administer more than a seven-day supply of a controlled substance;
- prescribe, dispense, or administer an oral drug within 90 days of an ophthalmic surgery without consulting the treating ophthalmologist;
- use, prescribe, dispense, purchase, possess, or administer a Schedule I or II controlled substance; or
- use, prescribe, dispense, or administer oral corticosteroids.

Hydrocodone.

Hydrocodone combination drugs were recently moved from Schedule III to Schedule II by the federal government.

Summary of Bill:

The Optometry Board may add Schedule II hydrocodone combination products to the list of drugs an optometrist may use, prescribe, dispense, purchase, possess, or administer.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) The stakeholders are grateful for the hearing and for the sponsorship of this bill.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Brad Tower, Optometric Physicians of Washington.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.