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WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE ARY OF STATE SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION, 2010

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FOR

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FOR

Senate Bill No. 365

(Senators Jenkins, Stollings, Tomblin (Mr. President), Edgell, Foster, Plymale and Prezioso, original sponsors)

[Passed March 11, 2010; in effect ninety days from passage.]



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(SENATORS JENKINS, STOLLINGS, TOMBLIN (MR. PRESIDENT), EDGELL, FOSTER, PLYMALE AND PREZIOSO, original sponsors)

[Passed March 11, 2010; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §60A-9-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the West Virginia Controlled Substances Monitoring Program database; requiring all prescribers or dispensers of Schedule II, III or IV controlled substances to have online access to the West Virginia Controlled Substances Monitoring Program database; authorizing persons or entities with access to the database to delegate access to database to others; limiting liability practitioners for good faith reliance on database; authorizing the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner access to the database; clarifying that practitioners have no duty to access database; authorizing rules for delegation of access; and rulemaking.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

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That §60A-9-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 9. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES MONITORING.

§60A-9-5. Confidentiality; limited access to records; period of retention; no civil liability for required reporting.

- 1 (a) The information required by this article to be kept by
- 2 the State Board of Pharmacy is confidential and is open to
- 3 inspection only by inspectors and agents of the State
- 4 Board of Pharmacy, members of the West Virginia State
- 5 Police expressly authorized by the Superintendent of the
- 6 West Virginia State Police to have access to the informa-
- $7 \;\; tion, authorized agents of local law-enforcement agencies$
- 8 as a member of a drug task force, authorized agents of the
- 9 federal Drug Enforcement Administration, duly autho-
- 10 rized agents of the Bureau for Medical Services and the
- 11 Workers' Compensation Commission, duly authorized
- 12 agents of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for use
- 13 in post-mortem examinations, duly authorized agents of
- 14 licensing boards of practitioners in this state and other
- 15 states authorized to prescribe Schedules II, III and IV
- 16 controlled substances, prescribing practitioners and
- 17 pharmacists and persons with an enforceable court order
- 18 or regulatory agency administrative subpoena: Provided,
- 19 That all information released by the State Board of
- 20 Pharmacy must be related to a specific patient or a
- 21 specific individual or entity under investigation by any of
- 22 the above parties except that practitioners who prescribe
- 23 controlled substances may request specific data related to
- 24 their Drug Enforcement Administration controlled
- 25 substance registration number or for the purpose of
- 26 providing treatment to a patient. The Board shall main-
- 27 tain the information required by this article for a period of
- 28 not less than five years. Notwithstanding any other
- 29 provisions of this code to the contrary, data obtained
- 30 under the provisions of this article may be used for

- 31 compilation of educational, scholarly or statistical pur-
- 32 poses as long as the identities of persons or entities remain
- 33 confidential. No individual or entity required to report
- 34 under section four of this article may be subject to a claim
- 35 for civil damages or other civil relief for the reporting of
- 36 information to the Board of Pharmacy as required under
- 37 and in accordance with the provisions of this article;
- 38 (b) All practitioners, as that term is defined in section
- 39 one hundred-one, article two of this chapter who prescribe
- 40 or dispense schedule II, III or IV controlled substances
- 41 shall, on or before July 1, 2011 have online or other form
- 42 of electronic access to the West Virginia Controlled
- 43 Substances Monitoring Program database;
- 44 (c) Persons or entities with access to the West Virginia
- 45 Controlled Substances Monitoring Program database
- 46 pursuant to this section may, pursuant to rules promul-
- 47 gated by the Board of Pharmacy, delegate appropriate
- 48 personnel to have access to said database;
- 49 (d) Good faith reliance by a practitioner on information
- 50 contained in the West Virginia Controlled Substances
- 51 Monitoring Program database in prescribing or dispensing
- 52 or refusing or declining to prescribe or dispense a schedule
- 53 II, III or IV controlled substance shall constitute an
- 54 absolute defense in any civil or criminal action brought
- 55 due to prescribing or dispensing or refusing or declining to
- 56 prescribe or dispense; and
- 57 (e) The Board of Pharmacy is hereby authorized to
- 58 promulgate an emergency rule under chapter twenty-nine-
- 59 A to effectuate the amendments to this section enacted
- 60 during the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature.
- 61 (f) Nothing in the article shall be construed to require a
- 62 practitioner to access the West Virginia Controlled
- 68 Substances Monitoring Program database.

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The Join Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that
the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.
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