

**By** the Committees on Governmental Oversight and Accountability;  
Judiciary; and Health Regulation; and Senator Fasano

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to prescription drugs; creating s.  
3           893.055, F.S.; providing definitions; requiring the  
4           Department of Health to establish a comprehensive  
5           electronic database system to monitor the prescribing  
6           and dispensing of certain controlled substances;  
7           requiring specified prescribing and dispensing  
8           information to be reported to the electronic database  
9           system; requiring the department, in conjunction with  
10          specified organizations, to adopt by rule a  
11          reasonable-person standard appropriate for the  
12          prescription drug monitoring program; providing  
13          reporting requirements; providing a reporting period;  
14          providing exemptions from participation in the system;  
15          authorizing the department to establish when to  
16          suspend and when to resume reporting requirements  
17          during declared emergencies; requiring all nonexempt,  
18          dispensing pharmacists and practitioners to submit  
19          information in a specified format; providing that the  
20          cost to the dispenser in submitting the required  
21          information may not be material or extraordinary;  
22          specifying costs that are not material or  
23          extraordinary; providing access to information  
24          reported to the system under certain circumstances;  
25          providing for the use of data for specified purposes;  
26          providing requirements for verification of information  
27          requested; requiring data transmission to comply with  
28          state and federal privacy and security laws;  
29          authorizing an agency or person to maintain the data

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30 for a specified period if the data is pertinent to  
31 ongoing health care or an active law enforcement  
32 investigation or prosecution; requiring the annual  
33 reporting of certain performance measures to the  
34 Governor and Legislature; providing performance  
35 measure criteria; providing criminal penalties for  
36 violations; requiring that all costs incurred by the  
37 department for the program be funded through federal  
38 grants or available private funding sources; providing  
39 requirements for seeking funding and procuring goods  
40 or services; authorizing the Office of Drug Control,  
41 in coordination with the department, to establish a  
42 direct-support organization; providing a definition;  
43 providing for a board of directors appointed by the  
44 director of the office; requiring the director to  
45 provide guidance to the board regarding acceptance of  
46 moneys from appropriate sources; requiring the direct-  
47 support organization to operate under written contract  
48 with the office; providing contract requirements;  
49 providing requirements for the direct-support  
50 organization's collecting, expending, and providing of  
51 funds; requiring department approval of activities of  
52 the direct-support organization; authorizing the  
53 office to adopt rules for the use of certain  
54 facilities and services; providing for audits;  
55 prohibiting the direct-support organization from  
56 exercising certain powers; establishing that a  
57 prescriber or dispenser is not liable for good faith  
58 use of the department-provided controlled substance

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59 prescription information of a patient; requiring the  
60 department, in collaboration with the office, to study  
61 the feasibility of enhancing the prescription drug  
62 monitoring program for specified purposes to the  
63 extent that funding is provided for such purpose;  
64 requiring certain persons to present specified  
65 identification in order to obtain controlled  
66 substances; providing for recordkeeping for certain  
67 transactions; requiring the Agency for Health Care  
68 Administration to continue implementation of  
69 electronic prescribing and an electronic prescribing  
70 clearinghouse; requiring the department to adopt  
71 rules; establishing a Program Implementation and  
72 Oversight Task Force; providing for membership;  
73 providing for reimbursement of certain member  
74 expenses; providing for meetings; providing the  
75 purpose of the task force; requiring reports to the  
76 Governor and Legislature; providing for the creation,  
77 membership, and duties of subcommittees; providing for  
78 a final report and the termination of the task force;  
79 amending ss. 458.309 and 459.005, F.S.; requiring  
80 certain physicians who engage in pain management to  
81 register their clinics with the department; requiring  
82 the department to inspect each facility; providing for  
83 exceptions; requiring the physician seeking to  
84 register the clinic to pay the costs of registration  
85 and inspection or accreditation; requiring the Board  
86 of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine to  
87 adopt rules setting forth standards of practice for

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88 certain physicians who engage in pain management;  
89 providing criteria for the rules; providing an  
90 effective date.

91

92 WHEREAS, as has been advocated by numerous pain management  
93 experts, addiction medicine experts, pharmacists, and law  
94 enforcement personnel, a prescription drug monitoring program  
95 that provides for reporting and advisory information and other  
96 specified information is established pursuant to this act to  
97 serve as a means to promote the public health and welfare and to  
98 detect and prevent controlled substance abuse and diversion, and

99 WHEREAS, while the importance and necessity of the proper  
100 prescribing, dispensing, and monitoring of controlled  
101 substances, particularly pain medication, have been established,  
102 controlled prescription drugs are too often diverted in this  
103 state, often through fraudulent means, including outright theft,  
104 phony pharmacy fronts, loose Internet medical evaluations, and  
105 inappropriate importation; in addition, there is a criminal  
106 element that facilitates the prescription drug abuse epidemic  
107 through illegal profitmaking from the diversion of certain  
108 controlled substances that are prescribed or dispensed by  
109 physicians, health care practitioners, and pharmacists, and

110 WHEREAS, in 2007, 8,620 drug-related deaths occurred in  
111 this state, 3,159 of which were caused by prescription drugs, an  
112 average of nearly 9 Floridians dying each day from prescription  
113 drugs; Schedule IV benzodiazepines, such as Xanax and Valium,  
114 were found to be present in more drug-related deaths than  
115 cocaine; and opiate pain medications were found to be  
116 contributing to the increasing numbers of drug-related deaths,

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117 and

118 WHEREAS, pharmaceutical drug diversion hurts this state  
119 significantly in terms of lost lives, increased crime, human  
120 misery from addiction, and ballooning health care costs  
121 connected to treatment, medical expenses, and Medicaid fraud  
122 that all Floridians ultimately bear, and

123 WHEREAS, the intent of this act is not to interfere with  
124 the legitimate medical use of controlled substances; however,  
125 the people of this state are in need of and will benefit from a  
126 secure and privacy-protected statewide electronic system of  
127 specified prescription drug medication information created  
128 primarily to encourage safer controlled substance prescription  
129 decisions that reduce the number of prescription drug overdoses  
130 and the number of drug overdose deaths; to educate and inform  
131 health care practitioners and provide an added tool in patient  
132 care, including appropriate treatment for patients who have  
133 become addicted; to guide public health initiatives to educate  
134 the population on the dangers of misusing prescription drugs; to  
135 prevent the abuse or diversion of prescribed controlled  
136 substances; and to ensure that those who need prescribed  
137 controlled substances receive them in a manner that protects  
138 patient confidentiality, and

139 WHEREAS, while certain medicines are very helpful if  
140 properly prescribed to a patient in need and then used as  
141 prescribed, they may be dangerous or even deadly if improperly  
142 dispensed, misused, or diverted, and

143 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature to encourage  
144 patient safety, responsible pain management, and proper access  
145 to useful prescription drugs that are prescribed by a

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146 knowledgeable, properly licensed health care practitioner who  
147 dispenses prescription drugs and that are dispensed by a  
148 pharmacist who is made aware of the patient's prescription drug  
149 medication history, thus preventing, in some cases, an abuse or  
150 addiction problem from developing or worsening, making such a  
151 problem possible or easier to identify, and facilitating the  
152 order of appropriate medical treatment or referral, and

153 WHEREAS, such an electronic system will also aid  
154 administrative and law enforcement agencies in an active and  
155 ongoing controlled substance-related investigation and will  
156 allow decisions and recommendations for pursuing appropriate  
157 administrative or criminal actions while maintaining such  
158 information for any such investigation with a reasonable, good  
159 faith anticipation of securing an arrest or prosecution in the  
160 foreseeable future, and

161 WHEREAS, a Program Implementation and Oversight Task Force  
162 will provide information to the Governor and Legislature  
163 regarding the implementation of the program and ensure that  
164 privacy and confidentiality of the patient's prescription  
165 history is respected, NOW, THEREFORE,

166  
167 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

168  
169 Section 1. Section 893.055, Florida Statutes, is created to  
170 read:

171 893.055 Prescription drug monitoring program.—

172 (1) As used in this section, the term:

173 (a) "Advisory report" means information provided by the  
174 department in writing, or as determined by the department, to a

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175 prescriber, dispenser, pharmacy, or patient concerning the  
176 dispensing of controlled substances. All advisory reports are  
177 for informational purposes only and impose no obligations of any  
178 nature or any legal duty on a prescriber, dispenser, pharmacy,  
179 or patient. The advisory reports issued by the department are  
180 not subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in any  
181 civil or administrative action against a prescriber, dispenser,  
182 pharmacy, or patient arising out of matters that are the subject  
183 of the report, and a person who participates in preparing,  
184 reviewing, issuing, or other activity related to an advisory  
185 report may not be permitted or required to testify in any such  
186 civil action as to any findings, recommendations, evaluations,  
187 opinions, or other actions taken in connection with preparing,  
188 reviewing, or issuing such a report.

189 (b) "Controlled substance" means a controlled substance  
190 listed in Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV in s.  
191 893.03.

192 (c) "Dispenser" means a dispensing pharmacist or dispensing  
193 health care practitioner.

194 (d) "Health care practitioner" or "practitioner" means any  
195 practitioner who is subject to licensure or regulation by the  
196 department under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 461, chapter  
197 462, chapter 464, chapter 465, or chapter 466.

198 (e) "Health care regulatory board" means any board for a  
199 practitioner or health care practitioner who is licensed or  
200 regulated by the department.

201 (f) "Pharmacy" means any pharmacy that is subject to  
202 licensure or regulation by the department under chapter 465 and  
203 that dispenses or delivers a controlled substance to an

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204 individual or address in this state.

205 (g) "Prescriber" means a prescribing physician, prescribing  
206 practitioner, or other prescribing health care practitioner.

207 (2) (a) By December 1, 2010, the department shall design and  
208 establish a comprehensive electronic database system that has  
209 controlled substance prescriptions provided to it and that  
210 provides prescription information to a patient's health care  
211 practitioner and pharmacist who inform the department that they  
212 wish the patient advisory report provided to them. Otherwise,  
213 the patient advisory report will not be sent to the  
214 practitioner, pharmacy, or pharmacist. The system shall be  
215 designed to provide information regarding dispensed  
216 prescriptions of controlled substances and shall not infringe  
217 upon the legitimate prescribing or dispensing of a controlled  
218 substance by a prescriber or dispenser acting in good faith and  
219 in the course of professional practice. The system shall be  
220 consistent with standards of the American Society for Automation  
221 in Pharmacy (ASAP). The electronic system shall also comply with  
222 the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)  
223 as it pertains to protected health information (PHI), electronic  
224 protected health information (EPHI), and all other relevant  
225 state and federal privacy and security laws and regulations. The  
226 reporting of prescribed controlled substances shall include a  
227 dispensing transaction with a dispenser pursuant to chapter 465  
228 or through a dispensing transaction with a pharmacy that is not  
229 located in this state but who is otherwise subject to the  
230 jurisdiction of this state as to that dispensing transaction.  
231 The reporting of patient advisories only refers to reports to  
232 pharmacists and practitioners. Separate reports that have



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233 patient prescription history information that are not patient  
234 advisory reports are provided to persons and entities as  
235 authorized in paragraphs (7) (b) and (c) and s. 893.0551.

236 (b) The department shall adopt rules as necessary  
237 concerning the reporting, accessing, evaluation, management,  
238 development, implementation, operation, and storage of  
239 information within the system, including rules for when patient  
240 advisory reports and patient information is provided to  
241 pharmacies, prescribers, and health care practitioners and rules  
242 for when health care regulatory boards, law enforcement  
243 agencies, and other persons or organizations authorized in this  
244 section and s. 893.0551 are provided patient prescription  
245 history information from the database unless provision of such  
246 information is otherwise described in this section. Such rules  
247 shall be developed with a reasonable-person standard for  
248 controlled prescription drug dispensers, prescribers, and  
249 patients. The department shall work with the professional health  
250 care licensure boards, such as the Board of Medicine, the Board  
251 of Osteopathic Medicine, and the Board of Pharmacy; other  
252 appropriate organizations, such as the Florida Pharmacy  
253 Association, the Florida Medical Association, and the Florida  
254 Osteopathic Medical Association, including those relating to  
255 pain management; and the Attorney General, the Department of Law  
256 Enforcement, and the Agency for Health Care Administration, to  
257 develop the reasonable-person standard for rules appropriate for  
258 the prescription drug monitoring program.

259 (c) All dispensers and prescribers subject to these  
260 reporting requirements shall be notified by the department of  
261 the implementation date for such reporting requirements.

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262       (3) The pharmacy dispensing the controlled substance and  
263 each prescriber who directly dispenses a controlled substance  
264 shall submit to the electronic system, by a procedure and in a  
265 format established by the department and consistent with an  
266 ASAP-approved format, the following information for inclusion in  
267 the database:

268       (a) The name of the prescribing practitioner, the  
269 practitioner's federal Drug Enforcement Administration  
270 registration number, the practitioner's National Provider  
271 Identification (NPI) or other appropriate identifier, and the  
272 date of the prescription.

273       (b) The date the prescription was filled and the method of  
274 payment, such as cash by an individual or insurance through a  
275 third party. This paragraph does not authorize the department to  
276 include individual credit card or other account numbers in the  
277 database.

278       (c) The full name, address, and date of birth of the person  
279 for whom the prescription was written.

280       (d) The name, national drug code, quantity, and strength of  
281 the controlled substance dispensed.

282       (e) The full name and address of the pharmacy or other  
283 location from which the controlled substance was dispensed.

284       (f) The name of the pharmacy or practitioner other than a  
285 pharmacist, dispensing the controlled substance and the  
286 practitioner's National Provider Identification (NPI).

287       (g) Other appropriate identifying information as determined  
288 by department rule.

289       (4) Each time a controlled substance is dispensed to an  
290 individual, the controlled substance shall be reported to the

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291 department through the system as soon thereafter as possible,  
292 but not more than 15 days after the date the controlled  
293 substance is dispensed unless an extension is approved by the  
294 department for cause as determined by rule. A dispenser must  
295 meet the reporting requirements of this section by providing the  
296 required information concerning each controlled substance that  
297 it dispensed in a department-approved, secure methodology and  
298 format. Such approved formats may include, but are not limited  
299 to, submission via the Internet, on a disc, or by use of regular  
300 mail.

301 (5) The following are exempt from this section when  
302 administering or dispensing a controlled substance:

303 (a) A health care practitioner administering a controlled  
304 substance directly to a patient if the amount of the controlled  
305 substance is adequate to treat the patient during that  
306 particular treatment session.

307 (b) A pharmacist or health care practitioner administering  
308 a controlled substance to a patient or resident receiving care  
309 as a patient at a hospital, nursing home, ambulatory surgical  
310 center, hospice, or intermediate care facility for the  
311 developmentally disabled which is licensed in this state.

312 (c) A practitioner administering a controlled substance in  
313 the health care system of the Department of Corrections.

314 (d) A practitioner administering a controlled substance in  
315 the emergency room of a licensed hospital.

316 (e) A health care practitioner administering or dispensing  
317 a controlled substance to a person under the age of 16.

318 (f) A pharmacist or a dispensing practitioner dispensing a  
319 one-time, 72-hour emergency resupply of a controlled substance

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320 to a patient.

321 (6) The department may establish when to suspend and when  
322 to resume reporting information during a state-declared or  
323 nationally declared disaster.

324 (7) (a) A practitioner or pharmacist who dispenses a  
325 controlled substance must submit the information required by  
326 this section in an electronic or other method in an ASAP format  
327 approved by rule of the department unless otherwise provided in  
328 this section. The cost to the dispenser in submitting the  
329 information required by this section may not be material or  
330 extraordinary. Costs not considered to be material or  
331 extraordinary include, but are not limited to, regular postage,  
332 electronic media, regular electronic mail, and facsimile  
333 charges.

334 (b) A pharmacy, prescriber, or dispenser shall have direct  
335 access to information in the prescription drug monitoring  
336 program's database which relates to a patient of that pharmacy,  
337 prescriber, or dispenser in a manner established by the  
338 department as needed for the purpose of reviewing the patient's  
339 controlled substance prescription history. Other access to the  
340 program's database shall be limited to the program's manager and  
341 to the designated program and support staff, who may act only at  
342 the direction of the program manager or in the absence of the  
343 program manager. Access by the program manager or such  
344 designated staff is for prescription drug program management  
345 only or for management of the program's database and its system  
346 in support of the requirements of this section and in  
347 furtherance of the prescription drug monitoring program.  
348 Confidential and exempt information in the database shall be

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349 released only as provided in paragraph (c) and s. 893.0551.

350 (c) The following entities shall not be allowed direct  
351 access to information in the prescription drug monitoring  
352 program database but may request from the program manager and,  
353 when authorized by the program manager, the program manager's  
354 program and support staff, information that is confidential and  
355 exempt under s. 893.0551. Prior to release, the request shall be  
356 verified as authentic and authorized with the requesting  
357 organization by the program manager, the program manager's  
358 program and support staff, or as determined in rules by the  
359 department as being authentic and as having been authorized by  
360 the requesting entity:

361 1. The department's relevant health care regulatory boards  
362 responsible for the licensure, regulation, or discipline of  
363 practitioners, pharmacists, or other persons who are authorized  
364 to prescribe, administer, or dispense controlled substances and  
365 who are involved in a specific controlled substance  
366 investigation involving a designated person for one or more  
367 prescribed controlled substances.

368 2. The Attorney General for Medicaid fraud cases involving  
369 prescribed controlled substances.

370 3. A law enforcement agency, as described in s.  
371 893.0551(2)(c), during ongoing investigations as provided in s.  
372 893.07 or during active investigations as defined in s. 119.011  
373 regarding potential criminal activity, fraud, or theft regarding  
374 prescribed controlled substances. The database information is  
375 available only for criminal cases.

376 4. A patient or the legal guardian or designated health  
377 care surrogate of an incapacitated patient as described in s.

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378 893.0551 who, for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of the  
379 database information, submits a written and notarized request  
380 that includes the patient's full name, address, and date of  
381 birth, and includes the same information if the legal guardian  
382 or health care surrogate submits the request. The request shall  
383 be validated by the department to verify the identity of the  
384 patient and the legal guardian or health care surrogate, if the  
385 patient's legal guardian or health care surrogate is the  
386 requestor. Such verification is also required for any request to  
387 change a patient's prescription history or other information  
388 related to his or her information in the electronic database.

389 (d) The following entities shall not be allowed direct  
390 access to information in the prescription drug monitoring  
391 program database but may request from the program manager and,  
392 when authorized by the program manager, the program manager's  
393 program and support staff, information that contains no  
394 identifying information of any patient, physician, health care  
395 practitioner, prescriber, or dispenser and that is not  
396 confidential and exempt:

397 1. Department staff for the purpose of calculating  
398 performance measures pursuant to subsection (8).

399 2. The Program Implementation and Oversight Task Force for  
400 its reporting to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and  
401 the Speaker of the House of Representatives regarding the  
402 prescription drug monitoring program. This subparagraph expires  
403 July 1, 2012.

404 (e) All transmissions of data required by this section must  
405 comply with relevant state and federal privacy and security laws  
406 and regulations. However, any authorized agency or person under

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407 s. 893.0551 receiving such information as allowed by s. 893.0551  
408 may maintain the information received for up to 24 months before  
409 purging it from his or her records or maintain it for longer  
410 than 24 months if the information is pertinent to ongoing health  
411 care or an active law enforcement investigation or prosecution.

412 (8) To assist in fulfilling program responsibilities,  
413 performance measures shall be reported annually to the Governor,  
414 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
415 Representatives by the department each December 1, beginning in  
416 2011. Data that does not contain patient, physician, health care  
417 practitioner, prescriber, or dispenser identifying information  
418 may be requested during the year by department employees so that  
419 the department may undertake public health care and safety  
420 initiatives that take advantage of observed trends. Performance  
421 measures may include, but are not limited to, efforts to achieve  
422 the following outcomes:

423 (a) Reduction of the rate of inappropriate use of  
424 prescription drugs through department education and safety  
425 efforts.

426 (b) Reduction of the quantity of pharmaceutical controlled  
427 substances obtained by individuals attempting to engage in fraud  
428 and deceit.

429 (c) Increased coordination among partners participating in  
430 prescription drug monitoring program.

431 (d) Involvement of stakeholders in achieving improved  
432 patient health care and safety and reduction of prescription  
433 drug abuse and prescription drug diversion.

434 (9) Any person who willfully and knowingly fails to report  
435 the dispensing of a controlled substance as required by this

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436 section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as  
437 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

438 (10) All costs incurred by the department in administering  
439 the prescription drug monitoring program shall be funded through  
440 federal grants or private funding applied for or received by the  
441 state. The department may not commit funds for the monitoring  
442 program without ensuring funding is available. The prescription  
443 drug monitoring program and the implementation thereof are  
444 contingent upon receipt of the nonstate funding. The department  
445 and state government shall cooperate with the direct-support  
446 organization established pursuant to subsection (11) in seeking  
447 federal grant funds, other nonstate grant funds, gifts,  
448 donations, or other private moneys for the department so long as  
449 the costs of doing so are not considered material. Nonmaterial  
450 costs for this purpose include, but are not limited to, the  
451 costs of mailing and personnel assigned to research or apply for  
452 a grant. Notwithstanding the exemptions to competitive-  
453 solicitation requirements under s. 287.057(5)(f), the department  
454 shall comply with the competitive-solicitation requirements  
455 under s. 287.057 for the procurement of any goods or services  
456 required by this section.

457 (11) The Office of Drug Control, in coordination with the  
458 department, may establish a direct-support organization that has  
459 a board consisting of at least five members to provide  
460 assistance, funding, and promotional support for the activities  
461 authorized for the prescription drug monitoring program.

462 (a) As used in this subsection, the term "direct-support  
463 organization" means an organization that is:

464 1. A Florida corporation not for profit incorporated under



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465 chapter 617, exempted from filing fees, and approved by the  
466 Department of State.

467 2. Organized and operated to conduct programs and  
468 activities; raise funds; request and receive grants, gifts, and  
469 bequests of money; acquire, receive, hold, and invest, in its  
470 own name, securities, funds, objects of value, or other  
471 property, either real or personal; and make expenditures to or  
472 for the direct or indirect benefit of the department in the  
473 furtherance of the prescription drug monitoring program.

474 (b) The direct-support organization is not considered a  
475 lobbying firm within the meaning of s. 11.045.

476 (c) The director of the Office of Drug Control shall  
477 appoint a board of directors for the direct-support  
478 organization. The director may designate employees of the Office  
479 of Drug Control, state employees other than state employees from  
480 the department, and any other nonstate employees as appropriate,  
481 to serve on the board. Members of the board shall serve at the  
482 pleasure of the director of the Office of Drug Control. The  
483 director shall provide guidance to members of the board to  
484 ensure that moneys received by the direct-support organization  
485 are not received from inappropriate sources. Inappropriate  
486 sources include, but are not limited to, donors, grantors,  
487 persons, or organizations that may monetarily or substantively  
488 benefit from the purchase of goods or services by the department  
489 in furtherance of the prescription drug monitoring program.

490 (d) The direct-support organization shall operate under  
491 written contract with the Office of Drug Control. The contract  
492 must, at a minimum, provide for:

493 1. Approval of the articles of incorporation and bylaws of

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494 the direct-support organization by the Office of Drug Control.

495 2. Submission of an annual budget for the approval of the  
496 Office of Drug Control.

497 3. Certification by the Office of Drug Control in  
498 consultation with the department that the direct-support  
499 organization is complying with the terms of the contract in a  
500 manner consistent with and in furtherance of the goals and  
501 purposes of the prescription drug monitoring program and in the  
502 best interests of the state. Such certification must be made  
503 annually and reported in the official minutes of a meeting of  
504 the direct-support organization.

505 4. The reversion, without penalty, to the Office of Drug  
506 Control, or to the state if the Office of Drug Control ceases to  
507 exist, of all moneys and property held in trust by the direct-  
508 support organization for the benefit of the prescription drug  
509 monitoring program if the direct-support organization ceases to  
510 exist or if the contract is terminated.

511 5. The fiscal year of the direct-support organization,  
512 which must begin July 1 of each year and end June 30 of the  
513 following year.

514 6. The disclosure of the material provisions of the  
515 contract to donors of gifts, contributions, or bequests,  
516 including such disclosure on all promotional and fundraising  
517 publications, and an explanation to such donors of the  
518 distinction between the Office of Drug Control and the direct-  
519 support organization.

520 7. The direct-support organization's collecting, expending,  
521 and providing of funds to the department for the development,  
522 implementation, and operation of the prescription drug

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523 monitoring program as described in subsections (2), (3), and  
524 (4). The direct-support organization may collect and expend  
525 funds to be used for the functions of the direct-support  
526 organization's board of directors, as necessary and approved by  
527 the director of the Office of Drug Control. In addition, the  
528 direct-support organization may collect and provide funding to  
529 the department in furtherance of the prescription drug  
530 monitoring program by:

531 a. Establishing and administering the prescription drug  
532 monitoring program's electronic database, including hardware,  
533 software, and personnel.

534 b. Conducting studies on the efficiency and effectiveness  
535 of the program.

536 c. Providing funds for future enhancements of the program  
537 within the intent of this section.

538 d. Providing user training of the prescription drug  
539 monitoring program, including distribution of materials to  
540 promote public awareness and education and conducting workshops  
541 or other meetings, for health care practitioners, pharmacists,  
542 and others as appropriate.

543 e. Providing funds for travel expenses.

544 f. Providing funds for administrative costs, including  
545 personnel, audits, facilities, and equipment.

546 g. Fulfilling all other requirements necessary to implement  
547 and operate the program as outlined in this section.

548 (e) The activities of the direct-support organization must  
549 be consistent with the goals and mission of the Office of Drug  
550 Control, as determined by the office in consultation with the  
551 department, and in the best interests of the state. The direct-

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552 support organization must obtain a written approval from the  
553 director of the Office of Drug Control for any activities in  
554 support of the prescription drug monitoring program before  
555 undertaking those activities.

556 (f) The Office of Drug Control, in consultation with the  
557 department, may permit, without charge, appropriate use of  
558 administrative services, property, and facilities of the Office  
559 of Drug Control and the department by the direct-support  
560 organization, subject to this section. The use must be directly  
561 in keeping with the approved purposes of the direct-support  
562 organization and may not be made at times or places that would  
563 unreasonably interfere with opportunities for the public to use  
564 such facilities for established purposes. Any moneys received  
565 from rentals of facilities and properties managed by the Office  
566 of Drug Control and the department may be held by the Office of  
567 Drug Control or in a separate depository account in the name of  
568 the direct-support organization and subject to the provisions of  
569 the letter of agreement with the Office of Drug Control. The  
570 letter of agreement must provide that any funds held in the  
571 separate depository account in the name of the direct-support  
572 organization must revert to the Office of Drug Control if the  
573 direct-support organization is no longer approved by the Office  
574 of Drug Control to operate in the best interests of the state.

575 (g) The Office of Drug Control, in consultation with the  
576 department, may adopt rules under s. 120.54 to govern the use of  
577 administrative services, property, or facilities of the  
578 department or office by the direct-support organization.

579 (h) The Office of Drug Control may not permit the use of  
580 any administrative services, property, or facilities of the

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581 state by a direct-support organization if that organization does  
582 not provide equal membership and employment opportunities to all  
583 persons regardless of race, color, religion, gender, age, or  
584 national origin.

585 (i) The direct-support organization shall provide for an  
586 independent annual financial audit in accordance with s.  
587 215.981. Copies of the audit shall be provided to the Office of  
588 Drug Control and the Office of Policy and Budget in the  
589 Executive Office of the Governor.

590 (j) The direct-support organization may not exercise any  
591 power under s. 617.0302(12) or (16).

592 (12) A prescriber or dispenser may have access to the  
593 information under this section which relates to a patient of  
594 that prescriber or dispenser as needed for the purpose of  
595 reviewing the patient's controlled drug prescription history. A  
596 prescriber or dispenser acting in good faith is immune from any  
597 civil, criminal, or administrative liability that might  
598 otherwise be incurred or imposed for receiving or using  
599 information from the prescription drug monitoring program. This  
600 subsection does not create a private cause of action, and a  
601 person may not recover damages against a prescriber or dispenser  
602 authorized to access information under this subsection for  
603 accessing or failing to access such information.

604 (13) To the extent that funding is provided for such  
605 purpose through federal or private grants or gifts and other  
606 types of available moneys, the department, in collaboration with  
607 the Office of Drug Control, shall study the feasibility of  
608 enhancing the prescription drug monitoring program for the  
609 purposes of public health initiatives and statistical reporting

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610 that respects the privacy of the patient, the prescriber, and  
611 the dispenser. Such a study shall be conducted in order to  
612 further improve the quality of health care services and safety  
613 by improving the prescribing and dispensing practices for  
614 prescription drugs, taking advantage of advances in technology,  
615 reducing duplicative prescriptions and the overprescribing of  
616 prescription drugs, and reducing drug abuse. In addition, the  
617 direct-support organization shall provide funding for the  
618 department, in collaboration with the Office of Drug Control, to  
619 conduct training for health care practitioners and other  
620 appropriate persons in using the monitoring program to support  
621 the program enhancements.

622 (14) A pharmacist, pharmacy, or dispensing health care  
623 practitioner or his or her agent, before releasing a controlled  
624 substance to any person not known to such dispenser, shall  
625 require the person purchasing, receiving, or otherwise acquiring  
626 the controlled substance to present valid photographic  
627 identification or other verification of his or her identity to  
628 the dispenser. If the person does not have proper  
629 identification, the dispenser may verify the validity of the  
630 prescription and the identity of the patient with the prescriber  
631 or his or her authorized agent. This subsection does not apply  
632 in an institutional setting or to a long-term care facility,  
633 including, but not limited to, an assisted living facility or a  
634 hospital to which patients are admitted. As used in this  
635 subsection, the term "proper identification" means an  
636 identification that is issued by a state or the Federal  
637 Government containing the person's photograph, printed name, and  
638 signature or a document considered acceptable under 8 C.F.R.

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639 274a.2(b)(1)(v)(A) and (B).

640 (15) The Agency for Health Care Administration shall  
641 continue the implementation of electronic prescribing by health  
642 care practitioners, health care facilities, and pharmacies under  
643 s. 408.061 and the electronic prescribing clearinghouse  
644 collaboration with the private sector under s. 408.0611.

645 (16) By October 1, 2010, the department shall adopt rules  
646 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer the  
647 provisions of this section.

648 Section 2. (1) The Program Implementation and Oversight  
649 Task Force is created within the Executive Office of the  
650 Governor. The director of the Office of Drug Control shall be a  
651 nonvoting, ex officio member of the task force and shall act as  
652 chair. The Office of Drug Control and the Department of Health  
653 shall provide staff support for the task force.

654 (a) The following state officials shall serve on the task  
655 force:

656 1. The Attorney General or his or her designee.

657 2. The Secretary of Children and Family Services or his or  
658 her designee.

659 3. The Secretary of Health Care Administration or his or  
660 her designee.

661 4. The State Surgeon General or his or her designee.

662 (b) In addition, the Governor shall appoint 11 members of  
663 the public to serve on the task force. Of these 11 appointed  
664 members, one member must have professional or occupational  
665 expertise in computer security; one member must be a Florida-  
666 licensed, board-certified oncologist; two members must be  
667 Florida-licensed, board-certified, fellowship-trained physicians

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668 who have experience in pain management; one member must be a  
669 Florida-licensed primary care physician who has experience in  
670 prescribing scheduled prescription drugs; one member must have  
671 professional or occupational expertise in e-Prescribing or  
672 prescription drug monitoring programs; one member must be a  
673 Florida-licensed pharmacist; one member must have professional  
674 or occupational expertise in the area of law enforcement and  
675 have experience in prescription drug investigations; one member  
676 must have professional or occupational expertise as an  
677 epidemiologist and have a background in tracking and analyzing  
678 drug trends; and two members must have professional or  
679 occupational expertise as providers of substance abuse  
680 treatment, with priority given to a member who is a former  
681 substance abuser.

682 (c) Members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed to  
683 a term of 3 years each. Any vacancy on the task force shall be  
684 filled in the same manner as the original appointment, and any  
685 member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the  
686 unexpired term of the member's predecessor.

687 (d) Members of the task force and members of subcommittees  
688 appointed under subsection (4) shall serve without compensation,  
689 but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel  
690 expenses as provided in s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

691 (e) The task force shall meet at least quarterly or upon  
692 the call of the chair.

693 (2) The purpose of the task force is to monitor the  
694 implementation and safeguarding of the electronic system  
695 established for the prescription drug monitoring program under  
696 s. 893.055, Florida Statutes, and to ensure privacy, protection



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697 of individual medication history, and the electronic system's  
698 appropriate use by physicians, dispensers, pharmacies, law  
699 enforcement agencies, and those authorized to request  
700 information from the electronic system.

701 (3) The Office of Drug Control shall submit a report to the  
702 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
703 House of Representatives by December 1 of each year which  
704 contains a summary of the work of the task force during that  
705 year and the recommendations developed in accordance with the  
706 task force's purpose as provided in subsection (2). Interim  
707 reports may be submitted at the discretion of the chair.

708 (4) The chair of the task force may appoint subcommittees  
709 that include members of state agencies that are not represented  
710 on the task force for the purpose of soliciting input and  
711 recommendations from those state agencies as needed by the task  
712 force to accomplish its purpose as provided in subsection (2).  
713 In addition, the chair may appoint subcommittees as necessary  
714 from among the members of the task force in order to efficiently  
715 address specific issues. If a state agency is to be represented  
716 on any subcommittee, the representative shall be the head of the  
717 agency or his or her designee. The chair may designate lead and  
718 contributing agencies within a subcommittee.

719 (5) The task force shall provide a final report in  
720 accordance with the task force's purpose as provided in  
721 subsection (2) on July 1, 2012, to the Governor, the President  
722 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
723 Such report shall be prepared using only data that does not  
724 identify a patient, a prescriber, or a dispenser. The task force  
725 shall expire and this section is repealed on that date unless

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726 reenacted by the Legislature.

727 Section 3. Subsections (4) and (5) are added to section  
728 458.309, Florida Statutes, to read:

729 458.309 Rulemaking authority.—

730 (4) Each privately owned pain-management clinic that  
731 employs a physician licensed under this chapter and who is  
732 primarily engaged in the treatment of pain by prescribing  
733 controlled substance medications must be registered with the  
734 department unless that clinic is licensed as a facility under  
735 chapter 395. Each clinic location shall be licensed separately  
736 regardless of whether the clinic is operated under the same  
737 business name or management as another clinic. If the clinic is  
738 licensed as a health care clinic under chapter 400, the medical  
739 director shall be responsible for registering the facility with  
740 the department. If the clinic is not licensed under chapter 395  
741 or chapter 400, the clinic shall, upon registration with the  
742 department, designate a physician who is responsible for  
743 complying with all requirements related to registration of the  
744 clinic. The designated physician shall be licensed under this  
745 chapter or chapter 459 and shall practice at the office location  
746 for which the physician has assumed responsibility. The  
747 department shall inspect the clinic annually to ensure that it  
748 complies with board rules adopted pursuant to this subsection  
749 and subsection (5) unless the clinic is accredited by a  
750 nationally recognized accrediting agency approved by the board.  
751 The actual costs for registration and inspection or  
752 accreditation shall be paid by the physician seeking to register  
753 the clinic.

754 (5) The board shall adopt rules setting forth standards of

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755 practice for physicians who practice in privately owned pain-  
756 management clinics that primarily engage in the treatment of  
757 pain by prescribing controlled substance medications. Such rules  
758 shall address, but need not be limited to, the following  
759 subjects:

- 760 (a) Facility operations;  
761 (b) Physical operations;  
762 (c) Infection control requirements;  
763 (d) Health and safety requirements;  
764 (e) Quality assurance requirements;  
765 (f) Patient records;  
766 (g) Training requirements for all facility health care  
767 practitioners;  
768 (h) Inspections; and  
769 (i) Data collection and reporting requirements.

770  
771 A physician is primarily engaged in the treatment of pain by  
772 prescribing controlled substance medications if the majority of  
773 the patients seen on any day the facility is open are issued  
774 controlled substance medications for the treatment of chronic  
775 nonmalignant pain. Chronic nonmalignant pain is pain unrelated  
776 to cancer which persists beyond the usual course of disease or  
777 injury. It may or may not be associated with a pathologic  
778 disease.

779 Section 4. Subsections (3) and (4) are added to section  
780 459.005, Florida Statutes, to read:

781 459.005 Rulemaking authority.—

782 (3) Each privately owned pain-management clinic that  
783 employs a physician licensed under this chapter and who is

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784 primarily engaged in the treatment of pain by prescribing  
785 controlled substance medications must be registered with the  
786 department unless that clinic is licensed as a facility under  
787 chapter 395. Each clinic location shall be licensed separately  
788 regardless of whether the clinic is operated under the same  
789 business name or management as another clinic. If the clinic is  
790 licensed as a health care clinic under chapter 400, the medical  
791 director shall be responsible for registering the facility with  
792 the department. If the clinic is not licensed under chapter 395  
793 or chapter 400, the clinic shall, upon registration with the  
794 department, designate a physician who is responsible for  
795 complying with all requirements related to registration of the  
796 clinic. The designated physician shall be licensed under chapter  
797 458 or this chapter and shall practice at the office location  
798 for which the physician has assumed responsibility. The  
799 department shall inspect the clinic annually to ensure that it  
800 complies with board rules adopted pursuant to this subsection  
801 and subsection (4) unless the clinic is accredited by a  
802 nationally recognized accrediting agency approved by the board.  
803 The actual costs for registration and inspection or  
804 accreditation shall be paid by the physician seeking to register  
805 the clinic.

806 (4) The board shall adopt rules setting forth standards of  
807 practice for physicians who practice in privately owned pain-  
808 management clinics that primarily engage in the treatment of  
809 pain by prescribing controlled substance medications. Such rules  
810 shall address, but need not be limited to, the following  
811 subjects:

812 (a) Facility operations;

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- 813       (b) Physical operations;  
814       (c) Infection control requirements;  
815       (d) Health and safety requirements;  
816       (e) Quality assurance requirements;  
817       (f) Patient records;  
818       (g) Training requirements for all facility health care  
819 practitioners;  
820       (h) Inspections; and  
821       (i) Data collection and reporting requirements.

822  
823 A physician is primarily engaged in the treatment of pain by  
824 prescribing controlled substance medications if the majority of  
825 the patients seen on any day the facility is open are issued  
826 controlled substance medications for the treatment of chronic  
827 nonmalignant pain. Chronic nonmalignant pain is pain unrelated  
828 to cancer which persists beyond the usual course of disease or  
829 injury. It may or may not be associated with a pathologic  
830 disease.

831       Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.