

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Health Policy

BILL: SB 530

INTRODUCER: Senator Perry

SUBJECT: Nonopioid Alternatives

DATE: February 3, 2021

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Looke</u>	<u>Brown</u>	<u>HP</u>	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	<u>RC</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SB 530 amends s. 456.44, F.S., to allow a specific educational pamphlet, which must be provided to health care patients or their representatives under certain circumstances, to be provided electronically or in printed form, instead of only in printed form as required under current law. The pamphlet contains information on the use of nonopioid alternatives for the treatment of pain and must be provided when a patient will receive anesthesia or will be prescribed certain opioid medications.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2021.

II. Present Situation:

History of the Opioid Crisis in Florida

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse:¹

- “In the late 1990s, pharmaceutical companies reassured the medical community that patients would not become addicted to prescription opioid pain relievers, and health care providers began to prescribe them at greater rates”; and
- “This subsequently led to widespread diversion and misuse of these medications before it became clear that these medications could indeed be highly addictive.”

Between the early 2000s and the early 2010s, Florida was infamous as the “pill mill capital” of the country. At the peak of the pill mill crisis, doctors in Florida bought 89 percent of all the oxycodone sold in the county.²

¹ National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Opioid Overdose Crisis* (Rev. Jan. 2019), <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis> (last visited Jan. 25, 2021).

² Lizette Alvarez, *Florida Shutting ‘Pill Mill’ Clinics*, *The New York Times* (Aug. 31, 2011), available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/01/us/01drugs.html> (last visited Jan. 25, 2021).

Between 2009 and 2011, the Legislature enacted a series of reforms to combat prescription drug abuse. These reforms included strict regulation of pain management clinics; creating the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP); and stricter regulation on selling, distributing, and dispensing controlled substances.³ “In 2016, the opioid prescription rate was 75 per 100 persons in Florida. This rate was down from a high of 83 per 100.”⁴

As reported by the Florida Attorney General’s Opioid Working Group,

Drug overdose is now the leading cause of non-injury related death in the United States. Since 2000, drug overdose death rates increased by 137 percent, including a 200 percent increase in the rate of overdose deaths involving opioids. In 2015, over 52,000 deaths in the U.S. were attributed to drug poisoning, and over 33,000 (63 percent) involved an opioid. In 2015, 3,535 deaths occurred in Florida where at least one drug was identified as the cause of death. More specifically, 2,535 deaths were caused by at least one opioid in 2015. Stated differently, seven lives per day were lost to opioids in Florida in 2015. Overall the state had a rate of opioid-caused deaths of 13 per 100,000. The three counties with the highest opioid death rate were Manatee County (37 per 100,000), Dixie County (30 per 100,000), and Palm Beach County (22 per 100,000).⁵

Early in 2017, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) declared the opioid crisis an epidemic.⁶ Shortly thereafter, on May 3, 2017, Governor Rick Scott signed Executive Order 17-146 declaring the opioid epidemic a public health emergency in Florida.⁷

House Bill 21 (2018)

In 2018, the Florida Legislature passed HB 21 (ch. 2018-13, L.O.F.) to combat the opioid crisis. HB 21:

- Required additional training for practitioners on the safe and effective prescribing of controlled substances;
- Restricted the length of prescriptions for Schedule II opioid medications to three days or up to seven days if medically necessary;
- Reworked the PDMP statute to require that prescribing practitioners check the PDMP prior to prescribing a controlled substance and to allow the integration of PDMP data with electronic health records and the sharing of PDMP data between Florida and other states; and
- Provided for additional funding for treatment and other issues related to opioid abuse.

House Bill 451 (2019)

In 2019, the Florida Legislature passed HB 451 (ch. 2019-123, L.O.F.) that required each health care practitioner to, prior to treating a patient with anesthesia or a Schedule II opioid medication

³ See chs. 2009-198, 2010-211, and 2011-141, Laws of Fla.

⁴ Attorney General’s Opioid Working Group, *Florida’s Opioid Epidemic: Recommendations and Best Practices*, 7 (Jan. 25, 2021), available at [https://myfloridalegal.com/webfiles.nsf/WF/TDGT-B9UTV9/\\$file/AG+Opioid+Working+Group+Report+Final+2-28-2019.pdf](https://myfloridalegal.com/webfiles.nsf/WF/TDGT-B9UTV9/$file/AG+Opioid+Working+Group+Report+Final+2-28-2019.pdf).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ See Exec. Order No. 17-146, available at <https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/17146.pdf>.

⁷ *Id.*

in a non-emergency situation: inform the patient of available nonopioid alternatives for the treatment of pain; discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the use of nonopioid alternatives; provide the patient with the pamphlet created by the Department of Health (DOH); and document any alternatives considered in the patient's record.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 530 amends s. 456.44, F.S., to allow the pamphlet created by the DOH regarding nonopioid alternatives to managing pain to be provided to the patient or the patient's representative electronically or in printed form.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2021.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 456.44 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.