

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2734

To require certain practitioners authorized to prescribe controlled substances
to complete continuing education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2019

Mrs. TRAHAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require certain practitioners authorized to prescribe
controlled substances to complete continuing education.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Safer Prescribing of
5 Controlled Substances Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR**
2 **CERTAIN PRACTITIONERS PRESCRIBING**
3 **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.**

4 Section 303 of the Controlled Substances Act (21
5 U.S.C. 823) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (f), in the matter preceding
7 paragraph (1), by striking “The Attorney General
8 shall register” and inserting “Subject to subsection
9 (k), the Attorney General shall register”;

10 (2) by redesignating subsection (k) as sub-
11 section (l); and

12 (3) by inserting after subsection (j) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(k)(1) In this subsection, the term ‘covered practi-
15 tioner’ means a practitioner that is not a hospital, phar-
16 macy, or veterinarian.

17 “(2) As a condition of granting or renewing the reg-
18 istration of a covered practitioner under this part to dis-
19 pense, or conduct research with, controlled substances in
20 schedule II, III, IV, or V, the Attorney General shall re-
21 quire the covered practitioner to complete training
22 through accredited continuing prescriber education that
23 the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines
24 meets the requirements under paragraph (3), unless the
25 covered practitioner meets the conditions described in
26 paragraph (6).

1 “(3) The training provided for purposes of paragraph
2 (2) shall, at a minimum, expose covered practitioners to—

3 “(A) best practices for pain management, in-
4 cluding responsible prescribing of pain medications,
5 alternatives to prescribing controlled substances and
6 other alternative therapies to decrease the use of
7 opioids;

8 “(B) tools to manage adherence and diversion
9 of controlled substances, including prescription drug
10 monitoring programs, drug screening, informed con-
11 sent, overdose education, and the use of opioid over-
12 dose antagonists; and

13 “(C) best practices for substance use disorder
14 treatment, including methods for diagnosing, treat-
15 ing, and managing a substance use disorder, includ-
16 ing the use of medications approved by the Food
17 and Drug Administration and evidence-based non-
18 pharmacological therapies, and linking patients to
19 evidence-based treatment for substance use dis-
20 orders.

21 “(4) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Serv-
22 ices Administration shall establish or support the estab-
23 lishment of not less than 1 training module that meets
24 the requirements under paragraph (3) that is provided—

1 “(A) to any covered practitioner registered or
2 applying for a registration under this part to dis-
3 pense, or conduct research with, controlled sub-
4 stances in schedule II, III, IV, or V;

5 “(B) online; and

6 “(C) free of charge.

7 “(5) The Secretary of Health and Human Services
8 shall establish, maintain, and periodically update a pub-
9 licly available database providing information relating to
10 training modules that meet the requirements under para-
11 graph (3).

12 “(6) A covered practitioner shall be deemed as com-
13 pleting the training described in paragraph (2) if the cov-
14 ered practitioner completes accredited continuing pre-
15 scriber education, that—

16 “(A) is required, as a condition of State prac-
17 tice licensure, to fulfill mandated training or edu-
18 cation related to best practices in pain management
19 and substance use disorder treatment, that is sub-
20 stantially similar to the requirements described in
21 paragraph (3); or

22 “(B) is required, as a condition of maintaining
23 a board certification recognized by the appropriate
24 board certification organizations for the covered pre-
25 scriber to fulfill mandated training or education re-

1 lated to best practices in pain management and sub-
2 stance use disorder treatment, that is substantially
3 similar to the requirement described in paragraph
4 (3).

5 “(7) Not later than 5 years after the date of enact-
6 ment of the Safer Prescribing of Controlled Substances
7 Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall
8 evaluate, and make publicly available a report describing,
9 how exposure to the training required under this sub-
10 section has changed prescribing patterns of controlled sub-
11 stances.”.

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