

1 H.613

2 Introduced by Representative Sullivan of Dorset

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; prescription drugs; regulated drugs; opioids; labels

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require a  
7 pharmacist or other health care professional dispensing an opioid medication to  
8 add a warning label or sticker to the prescription container that identifies the  
9 medication as an opioid and warns of the risk of addiction and overdose.

10 An act relating to warning labels on opioid prescription containers

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 4212 is amended to read:

13 § 4212. LABELS

14 \* \* \*

15 (b)(1) Whenever a pharmacist or an employee of a hospital, infirmary,  
16 school, first aid station, or nursing home sells or dispenses any regulated drug,  
17 he or she shall affix to the container in which such drug is sold or dispensed a  
18 label showing his or her own name, address, and registry number, or the name,  
19 address, and registry number of the pharmacist or hospital or nursing home for  
20 whom he or she is lawfully acting; the name and address of the patient, or if

1 the patient is an animal, the name and address of the owner of the animal and  
2 the species of the animal; the name, address and registry number of the  
3 ~~physician, dentist, or veterinarian by whom the prescription was written,~~  
4 practitioner who issued the prescription; the kind and form of the drug  
5 contained ~~therein~~ in the container unless the practitioner has specifically  
6 ordered in that prescription that such information not be specified on the label;  
7 such directions as may be stated on the prescription; and the date of the  
8 issuance of the prescription.

9 (2) In addition to the information required in subdivision (1) of this  
10 subsection, whenever a pharmacist or an employee of a hospital, infirmary,  
11 school, first aid station, or nursing home sells or dispenses an opioid  
12 medication pursuant to a prescription issued by a practitioner, the pharmacist  
13 or employee shall affix to the container in which the opioid medication is sold  
14 or dispensed a warning label or sticker describing the risks associated with  
15 opioid medications, as required by the Board of Pharmacy by rule.

16 (3) No person shall alter, deface, or remove any label so affixed  
17 pursuant to this subsection.

18 (4) This subsection shall not apply to regulated drugs sold or dispensed  
19 for use exclusively within a hospital.

20 ~~(c)(1) Physicians, dentists, or veterinarians~~ Practitioners dispensing  
21 regulated drugs shall affix to the container a label showing the dispensing

1 practitioner's name, address, and registry number; the name and address of the  
2 patient, or if the patient is an animal, the name and address of the owner of the  
3 animal and the species of the animal; the kind and form of the drug contained  
4 ~~therein~~ in the container unless the dispensing practitioner considers that such  
5 information should not be so specified for medical reasons; such directions as  
6 may be necessary for proper use of the medication; and the date of the  
7 issuance of the prescription and the dispensing of the drug.

8 (2) In addition to the information required in subdivision (1) of this  
9 subsection, whenever a practitioner dispenses an opioid medication, the  
10 practitioner shall affix to the container in which the opioid medication is  
11 dispensed a warning label or sticker describing the risks associated with opioid  
12 medications, as required by the Board of Pharmacy by rule.

13 (3) This subsection shall not apply to an amount of regulated drugs  
14 equivalent to three days' dosage dispensed to a patient for his or her immediate  
15 use without charge by a physician on house call.

16 (d) The Board of Pharmacy shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter  
17 25, in consultation with the Department of Health, specifying the location on  
18 the medication container at which the warning label or sticker for opioid  
19 medications shall be affixed, the font and format of any language to be  
20 included on the warning label or sticker, and the specific language to be  
21 included on the warning label or sticker, which, at a minimum, shall indicate

1 that the medication in the container is an opioid and that opioid medications  
2 carry a risk of addiction and overdose. Unless otherwise provided by the  
3 Board of Pharmacy's rules, the label or sticker shall be red in color, with the  
4 text printed in black.

5 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on January 1, 2021, except that the Board of  
7 Pharmacy shall begin the rulemaking process prior to that date in order to have  
8 rules for opioid medication warning labels or stickers in place on or before  
9 January 1, 2021.