

1 AN ACT relating to licensees authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled  
2 substances.

3 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

4 ➔Section 1. KRS 218A.205 is amended to read as follows:

5 (1) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Reporting agency" includes:

- 7 1. The Department of Kentucky State Police;
- 8 2. The Office of the Attorney General;
- 9 3. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services; and
- 10 4. The applicable state licensing board; and

11 (b) "State licensing board" means:

- 12 1. The Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure;
- 13 2. The Kentucky Board of Nursing;
- 14 3. The Kentucky Board of Dentistry;
- 15 4. The Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners;
- 16 5. The State Board of Podiatry; and
- 17 6. Any other board that licenses or regulates a person who is entitled to  
18 prescribe or dispense controlled substances to humans.

19 (2) (a) When a reporting agency or a law enforcement agency receives a report of  
20 improper, inappropriate, or illegal prescribing or dispensing of a controlled  
21 substance it may, to the extent otherwise allowed by law, send a copy of the  
22 report within three (3) business days to every other reporting agency.

23 (b) A county attorney or Commonwealth's attorney shall notify the Office of the  
24 Attorney General and the appropriate state licensing board within three (3)  
25 business days of an indictment or a waiver of indictment becoming public in  
26 his or her jurisdiction charging a licensed person with a felony offense  
27 relating to the manufacture of, trafficking in, prescribing, dispensing, or

1 possession of a controlled substance.

2 (3) Each state licensing board shall, in consultation with the Kentucky Office of Drug  
3 Control Policy, establish the following by administrative regulation ***promulgated in***  
4 ***accordance with KRS Chapter 13A*** for those licensees authorized to prescribe or  
5 dispense controlled substances:

6 (a) Mandatory prescribing and dispensing standards related to controlled  
7 substances, the requirements of which shall include the diagnostic, treatment,  
8 review, and other protocols and standards established for Schedule II  
9 controlled substances and Schedule III controlled substances containing  
10 hydrocodone under KRS 218A.172 and which may include the exemptions  
11 authorized by KRS 218A.172(4);

12 (b) In ***accordance***~~accord~~ with the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for  
13 Chronic Pain published in 2016, a prohibition on a practitioner issuing a  
14 prescription for a Schedule II controlled substance for more than a three (3)  
15 day supply of a Schedule II controlled substance if the prescription is intended  
16 to treat pain as an acute medical condition, with the following exceptions:

- 17 1. The practitioner, in his or her professional judgment, believes that more  
18 than a three (3) day supply of a Schedule II controlled substance is  
19 medically necessary to treat the patient's pain as an acute medical  
20 condition and the practitioner adequately documents the acute medical  
21 condition and lack of alternative treatment options which justifies  
22 deviation from the three (3) day supply limit established in this  
23 subsection in the patient's medical records;
- 24 2. The prescription for a Schedule II controlled substance is prescribed to  
25 treat chronic pain;
- 26 3. The prescription for a Schedule II controlled substance is prescribed to  
27 treat pain associated with a valid cancer diagnosis;

- 1           4.    The prescription for a Schedule II controlled substance is prescribed to  
2            treat pain while the patient is receiving hospice or end-of-life treatment  
3            or is receiving care from a certified community based palliative care  
4            program;
- 5           5.    The prescription for a Schedule II controlled substance is prescribed as  
6            part of a narcotic treatment program licensed by the Cabinet for Health  
7            and Family Services;
- 8           6.    The prescription for a Schedule II controlled substance is prescribed to  
9            treat pain following a major surgery or the treatment of significant  
10           trauma, as defined by the state licensing board in consultation with the  
11           Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy;
- 12          7.    The Schedule II controlled substance is dispensed or administered  
13            directly to an ultimate user in an inpatient setting; or
- 14          8.    Any additional treatment scenario deemed medically necessary by the  
15            state licensing board in consultation with the Kentucky Office of Drug  
16            Control Policy.

17           Nothing in this paragraph shall authorize a state licensing board to promulgate  
18           regulations which expand any practitioner's prescriptive authority beyond that  
19           which existed prior to June 29, 2017;

- 20          (c)   A prohibition on a practitioner dispensing greater than a forty-eight (48) hour  
21            supply of any Schedule II controlled substance or a Schedule III controlled  
22            substance containing hydrocodone unless the dispensing is done as part of a  
23            narcotic treatment program licensed by the Cabinet for Health and Family  
24            Services;
- 25          (d)   A procedure for temporarily suspending, limiting, or restricting a license held  
26            by a named licensee where a substantial likelihood exists to believe that the  
27            continued unrestricted practice by the named licensee would constitute a

1 danger to the health, welfare, or safety of the licensee's patients or of the  
2 general public;

3 (e) A procedure for the expedited review of complaints filed against their  
4 licensees pertaining to the improper, inappropriate, or illegal prescribing or  
5 dispensing of controlled substances that is designed to commence an  
6 investigation within seven (7) days of a complaint being filed and produce a  
7 charging decision by the board on the complaint within one hundred twenty  
8 (120) days of the receipt of the complaint, unless an extension for a definite  
9 period of time is requested by a law enforcement agency due to an ongoing  
10 criminal investigation;

11 (f) The establishment and enforcement of licensure standards that conform to the  
12 following:

13 1. **Restrictions that may include** a ~~permanent~~ ban on licensees and  
14 applicants convicted ~~after July 20, 2012,~~ in this state or any other state  
15 of any felony offense relating to ~~controlled substances from~~  
16 prescribing or dispensing a controlled substance;

17 2. Restrictions **that may include** ~~short of~~ a ~~permanent~~ ban on licensees  
18 and applicants convicted in this state or any other state of any  
19 misdemeanor offense relating to prescribing or dispensing a controlled  
20 substance;

21 3. Restrictions mirroring in time and scope any disciplinary limitation  
22 placed on a licensee or applicant by a licensing board of another state if  
23 the disciplinary action results from improper, inappropriate, or illegal  
24 prescribing or dispensing of controlled substances; and

25 4. A requirement that licensees and applicants report to the board any  
26 conviction or disciplinary action covered by this subsection with  
27 appropriate sanctions for any failure to make this required report;

- 1 (g) A procedure for the continuous submission of all disciplinary and other  
2 reportable information to the National Practitioner Data Bank of the United  
3 States Department of Health and Human Services;
- 4 (h) If not otherwise required by other law, a process for submitting a query on  
5 each applicant for licensure to the National Practitioner Data Bank of the  
6 United States Department of Health and Human Services to retrieve any  
7 relevant data on the applicant; and
- 8 (i) Continuing education requirements beginning with the first full educational  
9 year occurring after July 1, 2012, that specify that at least seven and one-half  
10 percent (7.5%) of the continuing education required of the licensed  
11 practitioner relate to the use of the electronic monitoring system established in  
12 KRS 218A.202, pain management, or addiction disorders.
- 13 (4) For the purposes of pharmacy dispensing, the medical necessity for a Schedule II  
14 controlled substance as documented by the practitioner in the patient's medical  
15 record and the prescription for more than a three (3) day supply of that controlled  
16 substance are presumed to be valid.
- 17 (5) A state licensing board shall employ or obtain the services of a specialist in the  
18 treatment of pain and a specialist in drug addiction to evaluate information received  
19 regarding a licensee's prescribing or dispensing practices related to controlled  
20 substances if the board or its staff does not possess such expertise, to ascertain if the  
21 licensee under investigation is engaging in improper, inappropriate, or illegal  
22 practices.
- 23 (6) Any statute to the contrary notwithstanding, no state licensing board shall require  
24 that a grievance or complaint against a licensee relating to controlled substances be  
25 sworn to or notarized, but the grievance or complaint shall identify the name and  
26 address of the grievant or complainant, unless the board by administrative  
27 regulation authorizes the filing of anonymous complaints. Any such authorizing

1 administrative regulation shall require that an anonymous complaint or grievance be  
2 accompanied by sufficient corroborating evidence as would allow the board to  
3 believe, based upon a totality of the circumstances, that a reasonable probability  
4 exists that the complaint or grievance is meritorious.

5 (7) Every state licensing board shall cooperate to the maximum extent permitted by law  
6 with all state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies, and all professional  
7 licensing boards and agencies, state and federal, in the United States or its  
8 territories in the coordination of actions to deter the improper, inappropriate, or  
9 illegal prescribing or dispensing of a controlled substance.

10 (8) Each state licensing board shall require a fingerprint-supported criminal record  
11 check by the Department of Kentucky State Police and the Federal Bureau of  
12 Investigation of any applicant for initial licensure to practice any profession  
13 authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances.