



# House of Representatives

## File No. 812

General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**(Reprint of File No. 75)**

Substitute House Bill No. 6718  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 22, 2023

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF  
CERTAIN PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, CANNABIS AND CANNABIS  
PRODUCTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-636 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 [Not later than January 1, 2023, each] (a) Each pharmacy, as defined  
4 in section 20-635, shall post a sign in a conspicuous place on the  
5 premises of such pharmacy, notifying consumers that they may visit the  
6 Internet web site of the Department of Consumer Protection for  
7 information concerning the safe storage of prescription drugs and  
8 disposal of unused and expired prescription drugs.

9 (b) On and after January 1, 2024, each pharmacy shall affix a  
10 fluorescent orange sticker or label to each container or packaging in  
11 which an opioid drug, as defined in section 20-14o, or controlled

12 substance in schedule II, III, IV or V, is sold or dispensed, containing the  
13 following statement in black ink:

14 "DANGER TO CHILDREN

15 KEEP OUT OF REACH".

16 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2024, the  
17 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall, in  
18 collaboration with providers of substance use disorder treatment  
19 services and organizations serving individuals experiencing  
20 homelessness, develop and administer a public awareness campaign  
21 concerning (1) the safe storage and disposal of prescription drugs,  
22 cannabis, cannabis products and illegal drugs, (2) the dangers such  
23 drugs and products pose to children, and (3) tactics to reduce and  
24 eliminate the harm caused to children by such drugs and products. Such  
25 campaign shall (A) include, but need not be limited to, the state-wide  
26 delivery of such information to individuals (i) receiving treatment for  
27 substance use disorders, and (ii) experiencing homelessness, and (B) not  
28 terminate any earlier than June 30, 2026.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	20-636
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Mental Health & Addiction Serv., Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

The bill requires the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to develop and administer a public awareness campaign regarding the safe storage and disposal of prescription drugs and cannabis and the associated dangers to children. This could result in a cost to the agency depending on the scope and extent to which DMHAS is required to establish a new campaign, separate from existing efforts.

House "A" strikes the language in the underlying bill and the associated impact and results in the fiscal impact described above.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6718 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, CANNABIS AND CANNABIS PRODUCTS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes changes to laws that address the safe storage and disposal of prescription drugs and other substances.

Beginning January 1, 2024, it requires pharmacies to affix a fluorescent orange sticker or label with black ink that says "DANGER TO CHILDREN KEEP OUT OF REACH" on any container or packaging in which an opioid drug or schedule II, III, IV, or V controlled substance is sold or dispensed.

The bill also requires the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to develop and administer a public awareness campaign about the (1) safe storage and disposal of prescription drugs, cannabis, cannabis products, and illegal drugs and (2) dangers they pose to children and tactics to reduce and eliminate them. The campaign must be delivered statewide to people who are homeless and receiving substance use disorder treatment.

Under the bill, DMHAS must do this (1) by July 1, 2024, and for at least two years until June 30, 2026, and (2) in collaboration with providers of substance use disorder treatment services and organizations serving the homeless.

\*House Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill and eliminates provisions requiring (1) cannabis dispensary facilities, retailers, hybrid retailers, and micro-cultivators to affix stickers or labels to their

products just as pharmacies must do for opioid drugs and other controlled substances; (2) the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to design and distribute these stickers or labels and distribute them to the above-listed entities; (3) DCP to develop and administer a social media public awareness campaign on safe storage and disposal of cannabis and cannabis products; (4) DCP-licensed cannabis dispensaries to post signs on their premises notifying consumers of safe storage and disposal information available on DCP's website; and (5) the appropriation of funds to DCP and DMHAS to carry out the underlying bill's labeling and public awareness campaign requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Related Bills***

HB 6696 (File 92), favorably reported by the General Law Committee, (1) requires pharmacists to give patients, when dispensing an opioid drug to them, a free personal opioid drug deactivation and disposal product and (2) allows them to seek reimbursement from the Opioid Settlement Fund for the cost of doing so.

sHB 6698 (File 187), favorably reported by the General Law Committee, (1) expands the pilot peer navigator program for individuals with opioid use disorder, making it a statewide initiative, and (2) explicitly authorizes the Opioid Settlement Fund to be used to pay for administering the program.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 2 (03/02/2023)