

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 23-100—sHB 6718

Committee on Children

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

SUMMARY: This act generally imposes requirements on pharmacies and certain state agencies about raising the awareness of the dangers that prescription drugs and other substances pose to children.

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. Relatedly, the act requires the Department of Consumer Protection commissioner to create guidance for pharmacies on the optimal size of, and font size used on, the stickers and labels. The commissioner must (1) implement the guidance through policies and procedures by September 1, 2023, and (2) adopt the guidance as regulations by July 1, 2024. Under the act, the policies and procedures are valid until the final regulations are adopted.

The act also requires the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to develop and administer a public awareness campaign about prescription drugs, cannabis, cannabis products, and illegal drugs. Specifically, the campaign must address (1) the safe storage and disposal of them, (2) the dangers they pose to children, and (3) tactics to reduce and eliminate the harm they cause children. At a minimum, the campaign must be delivered statewide to people who are homeless and to people receiving substance use disorder treatment. Under the act, DMHAS must do this (1) by July 1, 2024, until at least June 30, 2026, and (2) in collaboration with substance use disorder treatment service providers and organizations serving the homeless.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage