

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
80R7889 JLL-D

H.B. 948
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Health & Human Services
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Engrossed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Health and Safety Code requires the label on drugs to contain certain important information such as adequate drug use, warning information for improper use, side effects, and cautionary statements. This information is very important to ensure public awareness of the proper use of prescription drugs. The font size used in printing this vital information is often small and may prevent individuals, especially seniors, from making sound evaluations on the proper usage of prescription drugs.

H.B. 948 requires the Texas State Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules to require the information contained on the label and labeling for prescription drugs to be in plain language and printed in an easily readable font size for the consumer. This bill also requires the information contained on the labeling to be relevant to the prescription.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy in SECTION 1 (Section 562.006, Occupations Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 562.006, Occupations Code, by adding Subsection (c), to require the Texas State Board of Pharmacy (board) to adopt rules requiring the label on a dispensing container to be in plain language and printed in an easily readable font size for the consumer.

SECTION 2. Amends Subchapter A, Chapter 562, Occupations Code, by adding Section 562.0061, as follows:

Sec. 562.0061. OTHER PRESCRIPTION INFORMATION. Requires the board to adopt rules specifying the information a pharmacist must provide to a consumer when dispensing a prescription to the consumer for self-administration. Requires the information to be written in plain language, relevant to the prescription, and printed in an easily readable font size.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2007.