

The House Committee on Health and Human Services offers the following substitute to HB 564:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to medical practice, so as to require physicians to complete continuing education
3 training on prescribing controlled substances and the development of addiction; to provide
4 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 medical practice, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

9 "43-34-46.

10 (a) On and after July 1, 2015, physicians licensed to practice medicine pursuant to this
11 article shall complete at least five hours of continuing education biennially in the ordering
12 and use of controlled substances and the risks and indicators regarding development of
13 addiction to controlled substances. Physicians shall provide documentation to the board
14 verifying completion of such continuing education.

15 (b) The requirement contained in this Code section:

16 (1) May count toward the biennial continuing education requirement contained in
17 paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code Section 43-34-11;

18 (2) May count toward additional continuing education pertaining to pain management
19 or palliative medicine required by the board for physicians who do not hold a certification
20 in pain management or palliative medicine but whose patient population comprises 50
21 percent or more opioid pain management patients; and

22 (3) Shall not count toward continuing education annually required for retired physicians
23 who provide uncompensated health care services pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection
24 (b) of Code Section 43-34-11.

25

SECTION 2.

26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.