

House Bill 474

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, Drenner of the 85th, Jasperse of the 11th, and Smith of the 70th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 13 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the regulation of controlled substances, so as to provide for concurrent prescribing
3 of an opioid antagonist with opioids under certain circumstances; to provide for definitions;
4 to provide 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 13 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
8 regulation of controlled substances, is amended by revising Code Section 16-13-56.1,
9 relating to notification of addictive risks of opioids, as follows:

10 "16-13-56.1.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

12 (1) 'Opioids' ~~'opioids'~~ means opiates, opioids, opioid analgesics, and opioid derivatives.

13 (2) 'Opioid antagonist' means a drug approved by the federal Food and Drug
14 Administration that when administered negates or neutralizes in whole or in part the
15 pharmacological effects of an opioid in the body, including naloxone and such other
16 medications for the reversal of opioid analgesic overdoses.

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17 (b) A prescriber who issues a prescription for an opioid shall provide the patient receiving
18 the prescription information on the addictive risks of using opioids and information on
19 options available for safely disposing of any unused opioids where such options exist.
20 Such information may be provided verbally or in writing.

21 (c) A prescriber who prescribes an opioid for a patient shall concurrently prescribe an
22 opioid antagonist if the amount of opioid being prescribed is greater than or equal to 50
23 morphine milligram equivalents (MME). The prescription for the opioid antagonist shall
24 be accompanied by written information regarding the temporary effects of the opioid
25 antagonist and techniques for administering the opioid antagonist. Such written
26 information shall contain a warning that a person administering the opioid antagonist
27 should call 911 immediately after administering the opioid antagonist.

28 (d) Nothing in this Code section shall create a private right of action against a prescriber
29 and does not limit a prescriber's liability for the negligent failure to diagnose or treat a
30 patient."

31 **SECTION 2.**

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