



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 389

SENATE BILL NO. 570

By Dickerson

Substituted for: House Bill No. 403

By Ramsey, Hardaway, Powers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68 and Title 71, relative to TennCare.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known as the "Opioid Abuse Reduction Act."

SECTION 2. The commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services shall convene a working group to examine the problem of opioid abuse in this state, with a primary focus on persons enrolled in TennCare, and the potential impact of the use of FDA-approved abuse-deterrent opioids. The working group shall include representatives of TennCare, the Tennessee department of safety, the Tennessee department of health, the healthcare insurance industry, manufacturers of abuse-deterrent opioids, law enforcement, the Tennessee medical association, and other persons whom the commissioner may deem appropriate, in order to examine:

- (1) Recent trends and data regarding opioid abuse in this state involving those covered by both public and private insurance plans, with a primary focus on persons enrolled in TennCare;
- (2) The various tools and resources available to providers, law enforcement, and other stakeholders to address the growing problem of opioid abuse;
- (3) The direct and indirect costs associated with opioid abuse;
- (4) The latest products approved by the U.S. food and drug administration as abuse-deterrent opioids; and
- (5) Other issues the working group may deem appropriate in addressing prescription drug abuse and potential solutions to reduce that abuse, with a primary focus on persons enrolled in TennCare.

SECTION 3. Any costs associated with participation in the working group shall be borne by the individual participants or their respective associations or companies and not by the state of Tennessee, except for those who are employed by this state. In no event shall this working group require the hiring of additional staff by this state.

SECTION 4. No later than January 1, 2016, the working group shall submit a report regarding its findings and recommendations to the governor, the health committee of the house of representatives, the health and welfare committee of the senate, the insurance and banking committee of the house of representatives, and the commerce and labor committee of the senate, at which time the working group shall cease to exist.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 570

PASSED: April 21, 2015



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 21st day of MAY 2015



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR