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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 686 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY KORTZ, COHEN, STURLA, KOTIK, CALTAGIRONE, O'BRIEN,  
DEASY, DAVIS, MURT, READSHAW, GIBBONS, ROZZI, KINSEY,  
MCNEILL, BOBACK, FABRIZIO, EVERETT AND THOMAS, MARCH 3, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 3, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Providing for the collection and disposal of leftover and  
2 expired medicines and for penalties.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Findings.

6 The General Assembly finds and declares that:

7 (1) Pennsylvania citizens benefit from the authorized  
8 use of prescription and nonprescription medicines. The proper  
9 use of medicines helps to cure, treat and prevent diseases  
10 and to prolong life.

11 (2) Failure to properly dispose of leftover and expired  
12 medicines can lead to the illegal possession and abuse of  
13 medicines by children and others, possibly causing addiction,  
14 poisonings, overdoses and other harmful health effects.

15 (3) Disposing of medicines by flushing them down the  
16 toilet or placing them in the garbage can lead to the  
17 contamination of groundwater and other bodies of water,

1 contributing to degradation of the environment and harm to  
2 humans, animals and aquatic life.

3 (4) Pennsylvania residents need a safe method for  
4 disposal of medicines through programs that provide  
5 environmentally sound disposal of medicines with effective  
6 controls against diversion.

7 (5) The costs of properly collecting and disposing of  
8 leftover and expired medicines should be included in the  
9 manufacturer's business costs and the manufacturers of the  
10 medicines are best positioned to efficiently develop and  
11 operate programs for the safe and convenient collection and  
12 disposal of unused medicines.

13 Section 2. Short title.

14 This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
15 Pharmaceutical Stewardship Act.

16 Section 3. Definitions.

17 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
18 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
19 context clearly indicates otherwise:

20 "Controlled substance." A drug, substance or immediate  
21 precursor included in Schedules I through V of the act of April  
22 14, 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known as The Controlled Substance,  
23 Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.

24 "Covered drug." As follows:

25 (1) A lawfully obtained prescription drug and  
26 nonprescription drug. The term includes both brand name and  
27 generic drugs permitted to be accepted in accordance with  
28 Federal and State law.

29 (2) The term does not include:

30 (i) Herbal-based remedies and homeopathic drugs,

1 products or remedies.

2 (ii) Cosmetics, shampoos, sunscreens, toothpaste,  
3 lip balm, antiperspirants or other personal care products  
4 that are regulated as both cosmetics and proprietary  
5 drugs under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (52  
6 Stat. 1040, 21 U.S.C. § 301 et seq.).

7 (iii) Drugs for which a manufacturer provides a  
8 take-back program as part of the managed risk evaluation  
9 and mitigation strategy under 21 U.S.C. § 355-1 (relating  
10 to risk evaluation and mitigation strategies).

11 (iv) Drugs that are biological products as defined  
12 in 21 CFR 600.3(h) (relating to definitions) as it exists  
13 on the effective date of this section if the manufacturer  
14 already provides a take-back program.

15 (v) Pet pesticides contained in pet collars, powders  
16 or shampoos.

17 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

18 "Drug." Any of the following:

19 (1) Substances recognized in the official United States  
20 Pharmacopeia, or official National Formulary, or any  
21 supplement to either of them.

22 (2) Substances intended for use in the diagnosis, cure,  
23 mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease in man or  
24 other animals.

25 (3) Substances, other than food, intended to affect the  
26 structure or any function of the human body or other animal  
27 body.

28 (4) Substances intended for use as a component of any  
29 article specified under paragraphs (1), (2) and (3).

30 "Generic drug." A drug that is chemically identical or

1 bioequivalent to a brand name drug in dosage form, safety,  
2 strength, route of administration, quality, performance  
3 characteristics and intended use, though inactive ingredients  
4 may vary.

5 "Mail-back program." A system whereby residential sources of  
6 unwanted covered drugs obtain prepaid and preaddressed mailing  
7 envelopes for shipment to an entity that will dispose of them  
8 safely and legally.

9 "Manufacture." As follows:

10 (1) Any of the following:

11 (i) The production, preparation, propagation,  
12 compounding, conversion or processing of a drug or  
13 controlled substance.

14 (ii) The packaging or repackaging of a substance  
15 under subparagraph (i).

16 (iii) The labeling or relabeling of the commercial  
17 container of a substance under subparagraph (i).

18 (2) The term does not include the activities of a  
19 practitioner who, as an incident to his administration or  
20 dispensing the substance in the course of his professional  
21 practice, prepares, compounds, packages or labels the  
22 substance.

23 "Manufacturer." A person lawfully authorized to manufacture  
24 a drug or controlled substance.

25 "Nonproprietary drug." A drug or controlled substance  
26 required by any applicable Federal or State law to be dispensed  
27 only by prescription.

28 "Pharmaceutical stewardship program." A program operated by  
29 a manufacturer, group of manufacturers or an association for the  
30 collection, transportation and disposal of unwanted covered

1 drugs from residential sources that is financed by the  
2 manufacturers of those products.

3 "Proprietary drug." Nonprescription, nonnarcotic medicines  
4 or drugs which may be sold without a prescription and which are  
5 prepackaged for use by the consumer and labeled in accordance  
6 with Federal and State requirements.

7 "Residential sources." As follows:

8 (1) Single and multiple-family residences and locations  
9 where household drugs are unused, unwanted, disposed or  
10 abandoned.

11 (2) The term does not include drugs from hospitals,  
12 clinics, pharmacies, airport security, drug seizures by law  
13 enforcement, businesses or other nonresidential or business  
14 sources.

15 "Ultimate user." A person who lawfully possesses a drug or  
16 controlled substance for his own use or for the use of a member  
17 of his household or for administering to an animal in his care.

18 "Unwanted covered drug." Any covered drug no longer wanted  
19 by its ultimate user or that has been abandoned, discarded or is  
20 intended to be discarded by its ultimate user.

21 Section 4. Pharmaceutical stewardship program.

22 (a) Participation required.--Beginning January 1, 2016, any  
23 manufacturer offering a covered drug for sale in this  
24 Commonwealth must operate or participate in an approved  
25 pharmaceutical stewardship program prior to offering covered  
26 drugs for sale in Pennsylvania.

27 (b) Submittal.--After January 1, 2016, any manufacturer who  
28 intends to offer covered drugs for sale in this Commonwealth  
29 must have received an approval to operate a pharmaceutical  
30 stewardship program plan from the department or provide evidence

1 of having joined an existing pharmaceutical stewardship program  
2 to the department at least 45 days prior to the manufacturer's  
3 initial offer of sale of covered drugs.

4 (c) Program requirements.--A pharmaceutical stewardship  
5 program plan must meet or include all of the following:

6 (1) Implementation of the pharmaceutical stewardship  
7 program without charging a line item fee for the cost of the  
8 program visible to the consumer at the time of sale of the  
9 covered drugs or at the time the unwanted covered drugs are  
10 delivered or collected for disposal from residential sources.

11 (2) A description of a proposed collection system which  
12 shall include all of the following:

13 (i) (A) Except as provided under clause (B), at  
14 least one collection site in each county. At least  
15 one of the collection sites in each county shall have  
16 Federal authorization to collect lawfully obtained  
17 controlled substances.

18 (B) Counties with the following populations  
19 based on the most recent Federal decennial census  
20 shall have collection sites as follows:

21 (I) A county with a population of 100,001 to  
22 300,000 shall have at least two collection sites.

23 (II) A county with a population of 300,001  
24 to 1,000,000 shall have at least three collection  
25 sites.

26 (III) A county with a population in excess  
27 of 1,000,000 shall have at least four collection  
28 sites.

29 (C) Except for a county of the first class, a  
30 collection site under this subparagraph may not be

1 established in the same municipality as a collection  
2 site under subparagraph (ii).

3 (ii) At least one collection site in every  
4 municipality with a population over 50,000 in the most  
5 recent Federal decennial census. Collection sites  
6 established under subparagraph (i) may not be used to  
7 meet the requirements under this subparagraph.

8 (iii) A mail-back program for unwanted covered  
9 drugs. Envelopes for the program must be made available  
10 at each collection site and to any pharmacy in the county  
11 interested in providing envelopes to their customers.

12 (3) A handling and disposal system, including:

13 (i) Identification of and contact information for  
14 disposal facilities and other entities to be used by the  
15 program to collect and destroy the unwanted covered  
16 drugs.

17 (ii) The policies and procedures to be followed by  
18 persons handling and transporting unwanted covered drugs  
19 collected under the pharmaceutical stewardship program.

20 (iii) A description of how the collected unwanted  
21 covered drugs are tracked through to final disposal and  
22 how safety and security is maintained.

23 (iv) Final disposal or reuse technologies that  
24 provide superior environmental and human health  
25 protection compared with current disposal technologies  
26 for unwanted covered drugs, if approved by the department  
27 upon petition. The department may not approve the use of  
28 an alternative proposed technology unless the petitioners  
29 have presented clear and convincing evidence that the  
30 technology's performance under field conditions provides

1 equivalent protection in each and superior protection in  
2 one or more of the following areas:

3 (A) Monitoring emissions or waste.

4 (B) Worker health and safety.

5 (C) Air, water or land emissions contributing to  
6 persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic pollution.

7 (D) Overall impact to the environment and human  
8 health.

9 (v) Separation of unwanted covered drugs from their  
10 original containers, if appropriate, prior to disposal.

11 (4) A list of all entities participating in the  
12 collection, handling and disposal proposed in the  
13 pharmaceutical stewardship program and the entities' contact  
14 information.

15 (5) Certification that the pharmaceutical stewardship  
16 program will accept all unwanted covered drugs, including  
17 unwanted covered drugs from other manufacturers.

18 (6) An education and outreach program that shall  
19 include:

20 (i) A toll-free telephone number and an Internet  
21 website which shall provide information on the  
22 pharmaceutical stewardship program and a list of all  
23 collections sites and allow a person to request that a  
24 mail-back program envelope be mailed to them.

25 (ii) Printed brochures and posters describing where  
26 and how to return unwanted covered drugs provided at no  
27 cost to pharmacies, health care facilities and other  
28 interested parties.

29 (7) Performance goals, including recovery goals  
30 expressed as pounds of unwanted covered drugs disposed of per



1       capita and an explanation of how the recovery goals have been  
2       set to recover a significant percentage of unwanted covered  
3       drugs relative to the quantity of unwanted covered drugs that  
4       may be available for disposal.

5           (8) Operation of the pharmaceutical stewardship program  
6       in accordance with this act and other applicable Federal and  
7       State laws.

8           (9) A specific date for implementation.

9       (d) Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010.--

10       Within 180 days after promulgation of Federal regulations  
11       authorized under the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of  
12       2010 (P.L. 111-273), each pharmaceutical stewardship program  
13       shall submit an updated plan reflecting any necessary changes  
14       required by the Federal regulations.

15       Section 5. Department review and approval.

16       (a) Approval required.--No manufacturer or other entity may  
17       collect unwanted covered drugs until it has received written  
18       approval or renewal of its pharmaceutical stewardship program  
19       plan from the department.

20       (b) Compliance.--Within 90 days after receipt of a  
21       pharmaceutical stewardship program plan, the department shall  
22       determine whether it complies with this act. If it is deemed in  
23       compliance with this act, the department shall notify the  
24       applicant of its approval in writing. If the pharmaceutical  
25       stewardship program plan is rejected, the department shall  
26       notify the applicant in writing of its reasons for rejection.

27       (c) Review.--

28           (1) A manufacturer or other entity operating a  
29       pharmaceutical stewardship program shall conduct an internal  
30       evaluation of its program which shall be submitted to the

1 department as follows:

2 (i) Two years after implementation of the plan.

3 (ii) Five years after implementation of the plan,  
4 and every five years thereafter.

5 (2) The department shall review the internal evaluations  
6 submitted under this subsection and shall grant or deny  
7 approval for the continued operation of the program in  
8 accordance with the procedures under subsection (b).

9 (d) Substantive changes.--Any substantive changes to a  
10 pharmaceutical stewardship program plan must be approved by the  
11 department in writing.

12 Section 6. Report.

13 On or before April 1, 2017, and each April thereafter, a  
14 pharmaceutical stewardship program under section 3(b) must  
15 prepare and submit an annual report describing the program's  
16 activities during the previous calendar year to the department.  
17 The report must include all of the following:

18 (1) A list of manufacturers participating in the  
19 pharmaceutical stewardship program.

20 (2) The amount, by weight, of unwanted covered drugs  
21 collected at each site and the total amount by weight  
22 collected by a mail-back program.

23 (3) A list of the collection sites provided in each  
24 county, including the location of each collection site and  
25 locations where envelopes for a mail-back program are  
26 provided.

27 (4) The name and location of disposal facilities at  
28 which unwanted covered drugs were disposed of and the weight  
29 of unwanted covered drugs disposed of at each facility.

30 (5) If packaging was separated from the unwanted covered

1 drugs prior to disposal, the amount and percentage of  
2 packaging recycled and the name and location of the material  
3 recovery facility to which it was delivered.

4 (6) Whether policies and procedures for collecting,  
5 transporting and disposing of unwanted covered drugs, as  
6 established in the pharmaceutical stewardship program plan,  
7 were followed during the reporting period and a description  
8 of any noncompliance.

9 (7) Whether any safety or security problems occurred  
10 during collection, transportation or disposal of unwanted  
11 covered drugs during the reporting period and, if so, what  
12 changes have or will be made to policies, procedures or  
13 tracking mechanisms to alleviate the problem and to improve  
14 safety and security.

15 (8) A description of public education and outreach  
16 activities implemented during the reporting period, including  
17 the methodology used to evaluate the outreach and program  
18 activities.

19 (9) Any other information that the agency may reasonably  
20 require.

21 Section 7. Enforcement.

22 (a) Penalty for nonimplementation.--If an approved  
23 pharmaceutical stewardship program plan is not fully implemented  
24 as follows, the department shall assess the following penalties  
25 for each calendar day along with written notification to each  
26 manufacturer associated with the pharmaceutical stewardship  
27 program plan:

28 (1) If full implementation has not occurred within 30  
29 days of the start date contained in the pharmaceutical  
30 stewardship program plan, the department shall assess a

1 penalty of \$5,000 against the manufacturer or entity that  
2 developed the pharmaceutical stewardship program under  
3 section 3(b).

4 (2) If full implementation has not occurred within 60  
5 days of the start date contained in the pharmaceutical  
6 stewardship program plan, the department shall assess a  
7 penalty of \$10,000 against the manufacturer or entity that  
8 developed the pharmaceutical stewardship program under  
9 section 3(b).

10 (b) Penalty for noncompliance.--If the department finds that  
11 a pharmaceutical stewardship program is not in compliance with  
12 its approved plan, the department must notify in writing each  
13 manufacturer in the pharmaceutical stewardship program of the  
14 violation and allow the manufacturer or entity operating the  
15 pharmaceutical stewardship program 30 days to correct the  
16 noncompliance. After 30 days, the manufacturer or entity  
17 operating the pharmaceutical stewardship program under section  
18 3(b) shall be assessed a penalty of \$5,000 for the first  
19 violation and \$10,000 for each subsequent violation. Subsequent  
20 violations shall occur after each 10 days of noncompliance under  
21 this subsection.

22 (c) Penalty for nonparticipation.--

23 (1) Upon first determining that a manufacturer is  
24 offering a covered drug for sale in this Commonwealth but is  
25 not participating in a pharmaceutical stewardship program  
26 approved by the agency, the department shall send the  
27 manufacturer a written warning that the manufacturer is in  
28 violation of this act.

29 (2) A manufacturer not participating in a pharmaceutical  
30 stewardship program approved by the department whose covered

1 drug continues to be sold in this Commonwealth 60 days after  
2 receiving a written warning from the department shall be  
3 assessed a penalty of \$10,000 for each calendar day that the  
4 violation continues.

5 Section 8. Effective date.

6 This act shall take effect in 90 days.