

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

TO: All Legislators
FROM: Assembly Committee on Substance Abuse and Prevention
Representatives Nygren, Plumer, Magnafici, Petryk, Hutton, James,
Kolste, Sargent, Billings

Senator Patrick Testin

RE: LRB-2010 and LRB-4590: The prescription drug monitoring program

DEADLINE: November 12th, 2019

Collectively, the Assembly Committee on Substance Abuse and Prevention is introducing a bill to extend the sunset of the highly successful Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP).

The ePDMP is a tool to help combat the ongoing prescription drug abuse epidemic in Wisconsin. It aids healthcare professionals in their prescribing and dispensing decisions by providing valuable information about controlled substance prescriptions that are dispensed in the state. The ePDMP also fosters the ability of pharmacies, healthcare professionals, law enforcement agencies, and public health officials to work together to reduce the misuse, abuse, and diversion of prescribed controlled substance medications.

Seen as the gold-standard of ePDMPs nationwide, the Wisconsin ePDMP serves as the pivotal resource for prescribers to review prescribing trends and identify issues before they occur. The ePDMP is one of the most important prevention tools we have in our fight against the opioid epidemic.

Registrations with Wisconsin's ePDMP have increased ten-fold between 2014 and 2018. Over the same period, the number of queries in the system increased from around 230,000 to more than 7 million. Healthcare providers have been instrumental in the successes seen in Wisconsin, but there is still more work to do and complacency can reverse the positive trends we have seen.

Data from the ePDMP is an example of our successes. The map below shows controlled substance prescription drug doses dispensed per capita in quarter four of 2014.

- The darker the shade, the higher the doses per capita.
- Marinette County represented one of the highest, at 32.3 doses per capita.

This map shows controlled substance prescription drug doses dispensed per capita in quarter two of 2019.

- As you can see, the shade of almost all of Wisconsin is a lighter blue.

- Marinette County, while still too high, sits at 19.54 doses per capita, a decrease of over 12 doses per capita.

Currently, two sunsets are in effect regarding the ePDMP. First, there is a provision that requires an ePDMP inquiry before a prescriber issues a prescription for a patient. This sunsets on April 1, 2020. Additionally, there is a requirement for the Controlled Substances Board to do quarterly reviews of the ePDMP. This requirement sunsets October 30, 2020. This bill extends the first deadline to April 1, 2025 and the second deadline to October 30, 2025.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau:

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Current law requires the Controlled Substances Board to establish a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP) that requires pharmacies and health care practitioners to generate records documenting the dispensing of monitored prescription drugs. Records from the ePDMP may be disclosed to persons specified under current law or by the board by rule. This bill makes changes to certain requirements under the ePDMP:

- 1. Subject to exceptions, current law requires that a patient's records under the program be reviewed before a practitioner issues a prescription order for the patient. However, current law provides that this requirement does not apply after April 1, 2020. The bill extends the application of this requirement by five years, to April 1, 2025.*
- 2. Current law requires the board to conduct a quarterly review of the ePDMP to evaluate the actual outcomes of the ePDMP compared with projected outcomes. However, current law provides that this requirement does not apply after October 30, 2020. The bill extends the application of this requirement by five years, to October 30, 2025.*

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact [Chris](#) if Rep. Nygren's office or Matt Wimmer in Senator Testin's office.