

California Pharmacy Law – Changes for 2008

Provided below are code sections that were added, amended or repealed during the 2007 Legislative Session. Unless otherwise indicated, all these provisions go into effect January 1, 2008. Summaries of the changes made to many of the code sections will be provided in the next issue of *The Script*.

Business and Professions Code

Repeal: No sections repealed

Add:

Section 4076.5 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4076.5. (a) The board shall promulgate regulations that require, on or before January 1, 2011, a standardized, patient-centered, prescription drug label on all prescription medicine dispensed to patients in California.

(b) To ensure maximum public comment, the board shall hold public meetings statewide that are separate from its normally scheduled hearings in order to seek information from groups representing consumers, seniors, pharmacists or the practice of pharmacy, other health care professionals, and other interested parties.

(c) When developing the requirements for prescription drug labels, the board shall consider all of the following factors:

- (1) Medical literacy research that points to increased understandability of labels.
- (2) Improved directions for use.
- (3) Improved font types and sizes.
- (4) Placement of information that is patient-centered.
- (5) The needs of patients with limited English proficiency.
- (6) The needs of senior citizens.
- (7) Technology requirements necessary to implement the standards.

(d) (1) On or before January 1, 2010, the board shall report to the Legislature on its progress under this section as of the time of the report.

(2) On or before January 1, 2013, the board shall report to the Legislature the status of implementation of the prescription drug label requirements adopted pursuant to this section.

Amend:

Section 650 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

650. (a) Except as provided in Chapter 2.3 (commencing with Section 1400) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code, the offer, delivery, receipt, or acceptance by any person licensed under this division or the Chiropractic Initiative Act of any rebate, refund, commission, preference, patronage dividend, discount, or other consideration, whether in the form of money or otherwise, as compensation or inducement for

referring patients, clients, or customers to any person, irrespective of any membership, proprietary interest or coownership in or with any person to whom these patients, clients, or customers are referred is unlawful.

(b) The payment or receipt of consideration for services other than the referral of patients which is based on a percentage of gross revenue or similar type of contractual arrangement shall not be unlawful if the consideration is commensurate with the value of the services furnished or with the fair rental value of any premises or equipment leased or provided by the recipient to the payer.

(c) The offer, delivery, receipt, or acceptance of any consideration between a federally-qualified health center, as defined in Section 1396d(l)(2)(B) of Title 42 of the United States Code, and any individual or entity providing goods, items, services, donations, loans, or a combination thereof, to the health center entity pursuant to a contract, lease, grant, loan, or other agreement, if that agreement contributes to the ability of the health center entity to maintain or increase the availability, or enhance the quality, of services provided to a medically underserved population served by the health center, shall be permitted only to the extent sanctioned or permitted by federal law.

(d) Except as provided in Chapter 2.3 (commencing with Section 1400) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code and in Sections 654.1 and 654.2, it shall not be unlawful for any person licensed under this division to refer a person to any laboratory, pharmacy, clinic (including entities exempt from licensure pursuant to Section 1206 of the Health and Safety Code), or health care facility solely because the licensee has a proprietary interest or coownership in the laboratory, pharmacy, clinic, or health care facility; provided, however, that the licensee's return on investment for that proprietary interest or coownership shall be based upon the amount of the capital investment or proportional ownership of the licensee which ownership interest is not based on the number or value of any patients referred. Any referral excepted under this section shall be unlawful if the prosecutor proves that there was no valid medical need for the referral.

(e) (1) Except as provided in Chapter 2.3 (commencing with Section 1400) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code and in Sections 654.1 and 654.2, it shall not be unlawful to provide nonmonetary remuneration, in the form of hardware, software, or information technology and training services, necessary and used solely to receive and transmit electronic prescription information in accordance with the standards set forth in Section 1860D-4(e) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395w-104) in the following situations:

(A) In the case of a hospital, by the hospital to members of its medical staff.

(B) In the case of a group medical practice, by the practice to prescribing health care professionals that are members of the practice.

(C) In the case of Medicare prescription drug plan sponsors or Medicare Advantage organizations, by the sponsor or organization to pharmacists and pharmacies participating in the network of the sponsor or organization and to prescribing health care professionals.

(2) The exceptions set forth in this subdivision are adopted to conform state law with the provisions of Section 1860D-4(e)(6) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395w-104) and are limited to drugs

covered under Part D of the federal Medicare Program that are prescribed to Part D eligible individuals (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395w-101).

(3) The exceptions set forth in this subdivision shall not be operative until the regulations required to be adopted by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, pursuant to Section 1860D-4(e) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395W-104) are effective. If the California Health and Human Services Agency determines that regulations are necessary to ensure that implementation of the provisions of paragraph (1) is consistent with the regulations adopted by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, it shall adopt emergency regulations to that effect.

(f) "Health care facility" means a general acute care hospital, acute psychiatric hospital, skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility, and any other health facility licensed by the State Department of Public Health under Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 1250) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code.

(g) A violation of this section is a public offense and is punishable upon a first conviction by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year, or by imprisonment in the state prison, or by a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine. A second or subsequent conviction is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison or by imprisonment in the state prison and a fine of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

Section 4068 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4068. (a) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, a prescriber may dispense a dangerous drug, including a controlled substance, to an emergency room patient if all of the following apply:

(1) The hospital pharmacy is closed and there is no pharmacist available in the hospital.

(2) The dangerous drug is acquired by the hospital pharmacy.

(3) The dispensing information is recorded and provided to the pharmacy when the pharmacy reopens.

(4) The hospital pharmacy retains the dispensing information and, if the drug is a schedule II, schedule III, or schedule IV controlled substance, reports the dispensing information to the Department of Justice pursuant to Section 11165 of the Health and Safety Code.

(5) The prescriber determines that it is in the best interest of the patient that a particular drug regimen be immediately commenced or continued, and the prescriber reasonably believes that a pharmacy located outside the hospital is not available and accessible at the time of dispensing to the patient.

(6) The quantity of drugs dispensed to any patient pursuant to this section are limited to that amount necessary to maintain uninterrupted therapy during the period when pharmacy services outside the hospital are not readily available or accessible, but shall not exceed a 72-hour supply.

(7) The prescriber shall ensure that the label on the drug contains all the information required by Section 4076.

(b) The prescriber shall be responsible for any error or omission related to the drugs dispensed.

SEC. 44. Section 4084 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4084. (a) When a board inspector finds, or has probable cause to believe, that any dangerous drug or dangerous device is adulterated, misbranded, or counterfeit, the board inspector shall affix a tag or other marking to that dangerous drug or dangerous device. The board inspector shall give notice to the person that the dangerous drug or dangerous device bearing the tag or marking has been embargoed.

(b) When a board inspector has found that an embargoed dangerous drug or dangerous device is not adulterated, misbranded, or counterfeit, a board inspector shall remove the tag or other marking.

(c) A board inspector may secure a sample or specimen of a dangerous drug or dangerous device. If the board inspector obtains a sample prior to leaving the premises, the board inspector shall leave a receipt describing the sample.

(d) For the purposes of this article, "counterfeit" shall have the meaning defined in Section 109905 of the Health and Safety Code.

(e) For the purposes of this article, "adulterated" shall have the meaning defined in Article 2 (commencing with Section 111250) of Chapter 6 of Part 5 of Division 104 of the Health and Safety Code.

(f) For the purposes of this article, "misbranded" shall have the meaning defined in Article 3 (commencing with Section 111330) of Chapter 6 of Part 5 of Division 104 of the Health and Safety Code.

SEC. 45. Section 4101 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4101. (a) A pharmacist who takes charge of, or acts as pharmacist-in-charge of a pharmacy or other entity licensed by the board, who terminates his or her employment at the pharmacy or other entity, shall notify the board within 30 days of the termination of employment.

(b) A designated representative-in-charge of a wholesaler or veterinary food drug-animal retailer, who terminates his or her employment at that entity shall notify the board within 30 days of the termination of employment.

SEC. 46. Section 4160 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4160. (a) A person may not act as a wholesaler of any dangerous drug or dangerous device unless he or she has obtained a license from the board.

(b) Upon approval by the board and the payment of the required fee, the board shall issue a license to the applicant.

(c) A separate license shall be required for each place of business owned or operated by a wholesaler. Each license shall be renewed annually and shall not be transferable.

(d) The board shall not issue or renew a wholesaler license until the wholesaler identifies a designated representative-in-charge and notifies the board in writing of the identity and license number of that designated representative. The designated representative-in-charge shall be responsible for the wholesaler's compliance with state and federal laws governing wholesalers. A wholesaler shall identify and notify the board of a new designated representative-in-charge within 30 days of the date that the prior designated representative-in-charge ceases to be the designated representative-in-charge. A pharmacist may be identified as the designated representative-in-charge.

(e) A drug manufacturer premises licensed by the Food and Drug Administration or licensed pursuant to Section 111615 of the Health and Safety Code that only distributes

dangerous drugs and dangerous devices of its own manufacture is exempt from this section and Section 4161.

(f) The board may issue a temporary license, upon conditions and for periods of time as the board determines to be in the public interest. A temporary license fee shall be five hundred fifty dollars (\$550) or another amount established by the board not to exceed the annual fee for renewal of a license to compound injectable sterile drug products. When needed to protect public safety, a temporary license may be issued for a period not to exceed 180 days, subject to terms and conditions that the board deems necessary. If the board determines that a temporary license was issued by mistake or denies the application for a permanent license, the temporary license shall terminate upon either personal service of the notice of termination upon the licenseholder or service by certified mail, return receipt requested, at the licenseholder's address of record with the board, whichever occurs first. Neither for purposes of retaining a temporary license, nor for purposes of any disciplinary or license denial proceeding before the board, shall the temporary licenseholder be deemed to have a vested property right or interest in the license.

(g) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2006.

SEC. 47. Section 4161 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4161. (a) A person located outside this state that ships, mails, or delivers dangerous drugs or dangerous devices into this state shall be considered a nonresident wholesaler.

(b) A nonresident wholesaler shall be licensed by the board prior to shipping, mailing, or delivering dangerous drugs or dangerous devices to a site located in this state.

(c) A separate license shall be required for each place of business owned or operated by a nonresident wholesaler from or through which dangerous drugs or dangerous devices are shipped, mailed, or delivered to a site located in this state. A license shall be renewed annually and shall not be transferable.

(d) The following information shall be reported, in writing, to the board at the time of initial application for licensure by a nonresident wholesaler, on renewal of a nonresident wholesaler license, or within 30 days of a change in that information:

(1) Its agent for service of process in this state.

(2) Its principal corporate officers, as specified by the board, if any.

(3) Its general partners, as specified by the board, if any.

(4) Its owners if the applicant is not a corporation or partnership.

(e) A report containing the information in subdivision (d) shall be made within 30 days of any change of ownership, office, corporate officer, or partner.

(f) A nonresident wholesaler shall comply with all directions and requests for information from the regulatory or licensing agency of the state in which it is licensed, as well as with all requests for information made by the board.

(g) A nonresident wholesaler shall maintain records of dangerous drugs and dangerous devices sold, traded, or transferred to persons in this state, so that the records are in a readily retrievable form.

(h) A nonresident wholesaler shall at all times maintain a valid, unexpired license, permit, or registration to conduct the business of the wholesaler in compliance with the laws of the state in which it is a resident. An application for a nonresident wholesaler license in this state shall include a license verification from the licensing authority in the applicant's state of residence.

(i) The board may not issue or renew a nonresident wholesaler license until the nonresident wholesaler identifies a designated representative-in-charge and notifies the

board in writing of the identity and license number of the designated representative-in-charge.

(j) The designated representative-in-charge shall be responsible for the nonresident wholesaler's compliance with state and federal laws governing wholesalers. A nonresident wholesaler shall identify and notify the board of a new designated representative-in-charge within 30 days of the date that the prior designated representative-in-charge ceases to be the designated representative-in-charge.

(k) The board may issue a temporary license, upon conditions and for periods of time as the board determines to be in the public interest. A temporary license fee shall be five hundred fifty dollars (\$550) or another amount established by the board not to exceed the annual fee for renewal of a license to compound injectable sterile drug products. When needed to protect public safety, a temporary license may be issued for a period not to exceed 180 days, subject to terms and conditions that the board deems necessary. If the board determines that a temporary license was issued by mistake or denies the application for a permanent license, the temporary license shall terminate upon either personal service of the notice of termination upon the licenseholder or service by certified mail, return receipt requested, at the licenseholder's address of record with the board, whichever occurs first. Neither for purposes of retaining a temporary license, nor for purposes of any disciplinary or license denial proceeding before the board, shall the temporary licenseholder be deemed to have a vested property right or interest in the license.

(l) The registration fee shall be the fee specified in subdivision (f) of Section 4400.

SEC. 48. Section 4162 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4162. (a) (1) An applicant, that is not a government-owned and operated wholesaler, for the issuance or renewal of a wholesaler license shall submit a surety bond of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) or other equivalent means of security acceptable to the board payable to the Pharmacy Board Contingent Fund. The purpose of the surety bond is to secure payment of any administrative fine imposed by the board and any cost recovery ordered pursuant to Section 125.3.

(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), the board may accept a surety bond less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) if the annual gross receipts of the previous tax year for the wholesaler is ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) or less, in which case the surety bond shall be twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

(3) A person to whom an approved new drug application has been issued by the United States Food and Drug Administration who engages in the wholesale distribution of only the dangerous drug specified in the new drug application, and is licensed or applies for licensure as a wholesaler, shall not be required to post a surety bond as provided in paragraph (1).

(4) For licensees subject to paragraph (2) or (3), the board may require a bond up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for any licensee who has been disciplined by any state or federal agency or has been issued an administrative fine pursuant to this chapter.

(b) The board may make a claim against the bond if the licensee fails to pay a fine within 30 days after the order imposing the fine, or costs become final.

(c) A single surety bond or other equivalent means of security acceptable to the board shall satisfy the requirement of subdivision (a) for all licensed sites under common control as defined in Section 4126.5.

(d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2006, and shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2015, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2015, deletes or extends those dates.

SEC. 49. Section 4162.5 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4162.5. (a) (1) An applicant for the issuance or renewal of a nonresident wholesaler license shall submit a surety bond of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), or other equivalent means of security acceptable to the board, such as an irrevocable letter of credit, or a deposit in a trust account or financial institution, payable to the Pharmacy Board Contingent Fund. The purpose of the surety bond is to secure payment of any administrative fine imposed by the board and any cost recovery ordered pursuant to Section 125.3.

(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), the board may accept a surety bond less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) if the annual gross receipts of the previous tax year for the nonresident wholesaler is ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) or less in which the surety bond shall be twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

(3) For applicants who satisfy paragraph (2), the board may require a bond up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for any nonresident wholesaler who has been disciplined by any state or federal agency or has been issued an administrative fine pursuant to this chapter.

(4) A person to whom an approved new drug application or a biologics license application has been issued by the United States Food and Drug Administration who engages in the wholesale distribution of only the dangerous drug specified in the new drug application or biologics license application, and is licensed or applies for licensure as a nonresident wholesaler, shall not be required to post a surety bond as provided in this section.

(b) The board may make a claim against the bond if the licensee fails to pay a fine within 30 days of the issuance of the fine or when the costs become final.

(c) A single surety bond or other equivalent means of security acceptable to the board shall satisfy the requirement of subdivision (a) for all licensed sites under common control as defined in Section 4126.5.

(d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2006, and shall become inoperative and is repealed on, January 1, 2015, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2015, deletes or extends those dates.

SEC. 50. Section 4200 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4200. (a) The board may license as a pharmacist an applicant who meets all the following requirements:

(1) Is at least 18 years of age.

(2) (A) Has graduated from a college of pharmacy or department of pharmacy of a university recognized by the board; or

(B) If the applicant graduated from a foreign pharmacy school, the foreign-educated applicant has been certified by the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee.

(3) Has completed at least 150 semester units of collegiate study in the United States, or the equivalent thereof in a foreign country. No less than 90 of those semester units shall have been completed while in resident attendance at a school or college of pharmacy.

(4) Has earned at least a baccalaureate degree in a course of study devoted to the practice of pharmacy.

(5) Has completed 1,500 hours of pharmacy practice experience or the equivalent in accordance with Section 4209.

(6) Has passed a written and practical examination given by the board prior to December 31, 2003, or has passed the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination and the California Practice Standards and Jurisprudence Examination for Pharmacists on or after January 1, 2004.

(b) Proof of the qualifications of an applicant for licensure as a pharmacist, shall be made to the satisfaction of the board and shall be substantiated by affidavits or other evidence as may be required by the board.

(c) Each person, upon application for licensure as a pharmacist under this chapter, shall pay to the executive officer of the board, the fees provided by this chapter. The fees shall be compensation to the board for investigation or examination of the applicant.

SEC. 51. Section 4200.1 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4200.1. (a) Notwithstanding Section 135, an applicant may take the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination four times, and may take the California Practice Standards and Jurisprudence Examination for Pharmacists four times.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 135, an applicant may take the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination and the California Practice Standards and Jurisprudence Examination for Pharmacists four additional times each if he or she successfully completes, at minimum, 16 additional semester units of education in pharmacy as approved by the board.

(c) The applicant shall comply with the requirements of Section 4200 for each application for reexamination made pursuant to subdivision (b).

(d) An applicant may use the same coursework to satisfy the additional educational requirement for each examination under subdivision (b), if the coursework was completed within 12 months of the date of his or her application for reexamination.

(e) For purposes of this section, the board shall treat each failing score on the pharmacist licensure examination administered by the board prior to January 1, 2004, as a failing score on both the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination and the California Practice Standards and Jurisprudence Examination for Pharmacists.

(f) From January 1, 2004, to July 1, 2008, inclusive, the board shall collect data on the applicants who are admitted to, and take, the licensure examinations required by Section 4200. The board shall report to the Joint Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Consumer Protection before September 1, 2008, regarding the impact on those applicants of the examination limitations imposed by this section.

The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

(1) The number of applicants taking the examination and the number who fail the examination for the fourth time.

(2) The number of applicants who, after failing the examination for the fourth time, complete a pharmacy studies program in California or another state to satisfy the requirements of this section and who apply to take the licensure examination required by Section 4200.

(3) To the extent possible, the school from which the applicant graduated and the school's location and the pass/fail rates on the examination for each school.

(g) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2010, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2010, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 51.5. Section 4200.1 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4200.1. (a) Notwithstanding Section 135, an applicant may take the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination four times, and may take the California Practice Standards and Jurisprudence Examination for Pharmacists four times.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 135, an applicant may take the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination and the California Practice Standards and Jurisprudence Examination for Pharmacists four additional times each if he or she successfully completes, at minimum, 16 additional semester units of education in pharmacy as approved by the board.

(c) The applicant shall comply with the requirements of Section 4200 for each application for reexamination made pursuant to subdivision (b).

(d) An applicant may use the same coursework to satisfy the additional educational requirement for each examination under subdivision (b), if the coursework was completed within 12 months of the date of his or her application for reexamination.

(e) For purposes of this section, the board shall treat each failing score on the pharmacist licensure examination administered by the board prior to January 1, 2004, as a failing score on both the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination and the California Practice Standards and Jurisprudence Examination for Pharmacists.

(f) From January 1, 2004, to July 1, 2008, inclusive, the board shall collect data on the applicants who are admitted to, and take, the licensure examinations required by Section 4200. The board shall report to the Legislature and the Office of the Consumer Advocate before September 1, 2008, regarding the impact on those applicants of the examination limitations imposed by this section. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

(1) The number of applicants taking the examination and the number who fail the examination for the fourth time.

(2) The number of applicants who, after failing the examination for the fourth time, complete a pharmacy studies program in California or another state to satisfy the requirements of this section and who apply to take the licensure examination required by Section 4200.

(3) To the extent possible, the school from which the applicant graduated and the school's location and the pass/fail rates on the examination for each school.

(g) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2010, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2010, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 52. Section 4200.2 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4200.2. When developing the California Practice Standards and Jurisprudence Examination for Pharmacists, the board shall include all of the following:

(a) Examination items to demonstrate the candidate's proficiency in patient communication skills.

(b) Aspects of contemporary standards of practice for pharmacists in California, including, but not limited to, the provision of pharmacist care and the application of

clinical knowledge to typical pharmacy practice situations that are not evaluated by the North American Pharmacy Licensure Examination.

SEC. 53. Section 4208 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4208. (a) At the discretion of the board, an intern pharmacist license may be issued for a period of:

(1) One to six years to a person who is currently enrolled in a school of pharmacy recognized by the board.

(2) Two years to a person who is a graduate of a school of pharmacy recognized by the board and who has applied to become licensed as a pharmacist in California.

(3) Two years to a foreign graduate who has met educational requirements described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 4200.

(4) One year to a person who has failed the pharmacist licensure examination four times and has reenrolled in a school of pharmacy to satisfy the requirements of Section 4200.1.

(b) The board may issue an intern pharmacist license to an individual for the period of time specified in a decision of reinstatement adopted by the board.

(c) An intern pharmacist shall notify the board within 30 days of any change of address.

(d) An intern pharmacist whose license has been issued pursuant to paragraph (1) or (4) of subdivision (a) shall return his or her license, by registered mail, within 30 days of no longer being enrolled in a school of pharmacy. The intern pharmacist license shall be canceled by the board. Notwithstanding subdivision (c), an intern pharmacist license may be reinstated if the student reenrolls in a school of pharmacy recognized by the board to fulfill the education requirements of paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (a) of Section 4200.

(e) A person who has not completed the experience requirements necessary to be eligible for the licensure examination may have his or her intern license extended for a period of up to two years at the discretion of the board if he or she is able to demonstrate his or her inability to exercise the privileges of the intern license during the initial license period.

SEC. 54. Section 4314 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4314. (a) The board may issue citations containing fines and orders of abatement for any violation of Section 733, for any violation of this chapter or regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter, or for any violation of Division 116 (commencing with Section 150200) of the Health and Safety Code, in accordance with Sections 125.9, 148, and 4005 and the regulations adopted pursuant to those sections.

(b) Where appropriate, a citation issued by the board, as specified in this section, may subject the person or entity to whom the citation is issued to an administrative fine.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, where appropriate, a citation issued by the board may contain an order of abatement. The order of abatement shall fix a reasonable time for abatement of the violation. It may also require the person or entity to whom the citation is issued to demonstrate how future compliance with the Pharmacy Law, and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto, will be accomplished. A demonstration may include, but is not limited to, submission of a corrective action plan, and requiring completion of up to six hours of continuing education courses in the subject matter specified in the order of abatement. Any continuing education courses required by the order of abatement shall be in addition to those required for license renewal.

(d) Nothing in this section shall in any way limit the board from issuing a citation, fine, and order of abatement pursuant to Section 4067 or Section 56.36 of the Civil Code, and the regulations adopted pursuant to those sections.

SEC. 55. Section 4315 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4315. (a) The executive officer, or his or her designee, may issue a letter of admonishment to a licensee for failure to comply with Section 733, for failure to comply with this chapter or regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter, or for failure to comply with Division 116 (commencing with Section 150200) of the Health and Safety Code, directing the licensee to come into compliance.

(b) The letter of admonishment shall be in writing and shall describe in detail the nature and facts of the violation, including a reference to the statutes or regulations violated.

(c) The letter of admonishment shall inform the licensee that within 30 days of service of the order of admonishment the licensee may do either of the following:

(1) Submit a written request for an office conference to the executive officer of the board to contest the letter of admonishment.

(A) Upon a timely request, the executive officer, or his or her designee, shall hold an office conference with the licensee or the licensee's legal counsel or authorized representative. Unless so authorized by the executive officer, or his or her designee, no individual other than the legal counsel or authorized representative of the licensee may accompany the licensee to the office conference.

(B) Prior to or at the office conference, the licensee may submit to the executive officer declarations and documents pertinent to the subject matter of the letter of admonishment.

(C) The office conference is intended to be an informal proceeding and shall not be subject to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340), Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 11370), Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 11400), and Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

(D) The executive officer, or his or her designee, may affirm, modify, or withdraw the letter of admonishment. Within 14 calendar days from the date of the office conference, the executive officer, or his or her designee, shall personally serve or send by certified mail to the licensee's address of record with the board a written decision. This decision shall be deemed the final administrative decision concerning the letter of admonishment.

(E) Judicial review of the decision may be had by filing a petition for a writ of mandate in accordance with the provisions of Section 1094.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure within 30 days of the date the decision was personally served or sent by certified mail. The judicial review shall extend to the question of whether or not there was a prejudicial abuse of discretion in the issuance of the letter of admonishment.

(2) Comply with the letter of admonishment and submit a written corrective action plan to the executive officer documenting compliance. If an office conference is not requested pursuant to this section, compliance with the letter of admonishment shall not constitute an admission of the violation noted in the letter of admonishment.

(d) The letter of admonishment shall be served upon the licensee personally or by certified mail at the licensee's address of record with the board. If the licensee is served by certified mail, service shall be effective upon deposit in the United States mail.

(e) The licensee shall maintain and have readily available a copy of the letter of admonishment and corrective action plan, if any, for at least three years from the date of issuance of the letter of admonishment.

(f) Nothing in this section shall in any way limit the board's authority or ability to do either of the following:

(1) Issue a citation pursuant to Section 125.9, 148, or 4067 or pursuant to Section 1775 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations.

(2) Institute disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Article 19 (commencing with Section 4300).

Health and Safety Code

Section 11162.1 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

11162.1. (a) The prescription forms for controlled substances shall be printed with the following features:

(1) A latent, repetitive "void" pattern shall be printed across the entire front of the prescription blank; if a prescription is scanned or photocopied, the word "void" shall appear in a pattern across the entire front of the prescription.

(2) A watermark shall be printed on the backside of the prescription blank; the watermark shall consist of the words "California Security Prescription."

(3) A chemical void protection that prevents alteration by chemical washing.

(4) A feature printed in thermochromic ink.

(5) An area of opaque writing so that the writing disappears if the prescription is lightened.

(6) A description of the security features included on each prescription form.

(7) (A) Six quantity check off boxes shall be printed on the form and the following quantities shall appear:

1-24

25-49

50-74

75-100

101-150

151 and over.

(B) In conjunction with the quantity boxes, a space shall be provided to designate the units referenced in the quantity boxes when the drug is not in tablet or capsule form.

(8) Prescription blanks shall contain a statement printed on the bottom of the prescription blank that the "Prescription is void if the number of drugs prescribed is not noted."

(9) The preprinted name, category of licensure, license number, federal controlled substance registration number of the prescribing practitioner.

(10) Check boxes shall be printed on the form so that the prescriber may indicate the number of refills ordered.

(11) The date of origin of the prescription.

(12) A check box indicating the prescriber's order not to substitute.

(13) An identifying number assigned to the approved security printer by the Department of Justice.

(14) (A) A check box by the name of each prescriber when a prescription form lists multiple prescribers.

(B) Each prescriber who signs the prescription form shall identify himself or herself as the prescriber by checking the box by his or her name.

(b) Each batch of controlled substance prescription forms shall have the lot number printed on the form and each form within that batch shall be numbered sequentially beginning with the numeral one.

(c) (1) A prescriber designated by a licensed health care facility, a clinic specified in Section 1200, or a clinic specified in subdivision (a) of Section 1206 that has 25 or more physicians or surgeons may order controlled substance prescription forms for use by prescribers when treating patients in that facility without the information required in paragraph (9) of subdivision (a) or paragraph (3) of this subdivision.

(2) Forms ordered pursuant to this subdivision shall have the name, category of licensure, license number, and federal controlled substance registration number of the designated prescriber and the name, address, category of licensure, and license number of the licensed health care facility the clinic specified in Section 1200, or the clinic specified in subdivision (a) of Section 1206 that has 25 or more physicians or surgeons preprinted on the form.

(3) Forms ordered pursuant to this section shall not be valid prescriptions without the name, category of licensure, license number, and federal controlled substance registration number of the prescriber on the form.

(4) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the designated prescriber shall maintain a record of the prescribers to whom the controlled substance prescription forms are issued, that shall include the name, category of licensure, license number, federal controlled substance registration number, and quantity of controlled substance prescription forms issued to each prescriber. The record shall be maintained in the health facility for three years.

(B) Forms ordered pursuant to this subdivision that are printed by a computerized prescription generation system shall not be subject to subparagraph (A) or paragraph (7) of subdivision (a). Forms printed pursuant to this subdivision that are printed by a computerized prescription generation system may contain the prescriber's name, category of professional licensure, license number, federal controlled substance registration number, and the date of the prescription.

(d) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2004.