

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. House Bill 1699

PRINTER NO. 4044

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 22, 2016

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative R. Brown

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 1699 creates the Safe Emergency Prescribing Act and limits the quantity of opioids which may be prescribed to a patient seeking treatment in a hospital emergency department or urgent care center.

Health care practitioners may prescribe opioids for no longer than seven days for any patient seeking treatment in an emergency department or urgent care center or are in the hospital under observation status unless the health care practitioner's professional judgment indicates otherwise. If the health care practitioner prescribes more than seven days of the opioid, the health care practitioner must:

1. Document the condition triggering the larger prescription in the patient's medical record
2. Document that a non-opioid product was not appropriate as a treatment alternative.

Prohibits a health care practitioner in an emergency department, urgent care center or who is caring for a patient in observation status from refilling a prescription regardless of the reason.

If the health care practitioner believes the patient may be at risk for substance abuse, the individual shall be referred for treatment. The health care practitioner shall also access the Pennsylvania prescription drug monitoring program to determine if the patient is currently being treated with an opioid by another health care practitioner. This does not apply to patients who are admitted to a hospital or under the care of an emergency department.

The Department of Health shall promulgate regulations to carry out the provisions of this act.

The act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 1699 will have no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. The costs to promulgate the required regulations can be absorbed within the Department of Health's operating budget.