

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 150

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 6, 2023

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 150.

This bill requires physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, and other authorized prescribers to obtain informed electronic or written consent prior to prescribing psychotropic medications that are accompanied by a “black box warning,” which consent is to include an electronic or a written acknowledgement that the patient or the patient’s guardian received notification about the black box warning. The bill specifies that in cases where electronic or written consent cannot be obtained but oral consent is provided, the prescriber must make a notation in the patient’s file indicating the date and circumstances of the informed consent.

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires pharmaceutical companies to place a “black box warning” on a drug label if medical studies indicate that the drug carries a significant risk of serious or life-threatening adverse effects. A “black box warning” is the strongest warning that the FDA requires.

A physician, physician assistant, advanced practice nurse, or other authorized prescriber who violates the requirements established under the bill is subject to disciplinary action by the applicable State professional licensing board.

This bill was prefiled for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.