

HOUSE BILL 913

By Littleton

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39;
Title 53 and Title 63, relative to prescription drugs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 6, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Prior to issuing an initial prescription for a Schedule II controlled substance or another opioid prescription pain reliever in a course of treatment for acute or chronic pain, and again prior to issuing a third prescription for the same medication during the course of treatment, a practitioner shall discuss with the patient, or the patient's parent or guardian if the patient is under eighteen (18) years of age and is not an emancipated minor, the risks associated with the drug being prescribed, including, but not limited to:

- (1) The risks of addiction and overdose associated with opioid drugs and the dangers of fatal respiratory depression when mixing opioid drugs with alcohol, benzodiazepines, and other central nervous system depressants;
- (2) The reasons why the prescription is necessary;
- (3) Alternative treatments that may be available; and
- (4) The risk of developing a physical or psychological dependence on the drug.

(b) The practitioner shall include a note in the patient's medical record indicating that the practitioner has discussed with the patient or the patient's guardian, the risks of developing a physical or psychological dependence on the controlled substance and alternative treatments that may be available.

(c) This section does not apply to a prescription for a patient who is currently in active treatment for cancer, receiving hospice care from a licensed hospice or palliative care facility, or is a resident of a long-term care facility, or to any medications that are being prescribed for use in the treatment of substance abuse or opioid dependence.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.