

Legislative Analysis



HANDWRITTEN PRESCRIPTIONS: REQUIRE TO BE LEGIBLE

Mitchell Bean, Director
Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 5549
Sponsor: Rep. Edward Gaffney
Committee: Health Policy

Complete to 5-17-04

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5549 AS INTRODUCED 2-17-04

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to require a handwritten prescription to be legibly printed in a type that is at least 10 point, written in ink or an indelible pencil, and signed by the prescriber. If not prohibited by federal law, a prescriber could transmit a handwritten prescription by facsimile or any other electronic transmission. A handwritten prescription could also be electronically transmitted directly to a pharmacy of the patient's choice or his or her authorized agent; however, the data could not be altered, modified, or extracted in the transmission process.

MCL 333.7333

FISCAL IMPACT:

Establishing requirements for handwritten prescriptions will not have any fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

Legislative Analyst: Susan Stutzky
Fiscal Analyst: Margaret Alston

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