

**PATIENT- AND SAFETY-CENTERED PRESCRIPTION  
LABELS CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

2011 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Marie H. Poulson**

Senate Sponsor: Allen M. Christensen

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor urges prescribers, dispensers, manufacturers of drugs, health insurers, and government agencies generally to take specific steps to improve patient- and safety-centered prescription labels.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ urges individuals to assume primary responsibility for the proper and safe use, storage, and disposal of any drug prescribed to them, and to encourage their dispensers to provide adequate instruction on how to fulfill those responsibilities;
- ▶ urges the Utah Pharmacy Board, the Utah Pharmacists Association, and other related groups to meet regularly during 2011 to develop a prescription label format that is patient- and safety-centered;
- ▶ urges the Utah Pharmacy Board and the Utah Pharmacists Association to provide project updates and present the improved prescription label format to the Legislature's Health and Human Services Interim Committee; and
- ▶ urges federal, state, and local agencies to continue working to reduce prescription drug misuse, addiction, and drug-related death, to develop campaigns to educate the public about the dangers of prescription drug misuse, to promote the proper disposal of partially used or expired prescriptions, to continue developing drop-off sites and other secure and environmentally friendly methods for disposing of unused prescription drugs, and to continue promoting the availability and use of programs

30 that treat prescription drug addiction.

31 **Special Clauses:**

32 None

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34 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

35 WHEREAS, the misuse of prescription drugs increases the likelihood of a negative  
36 physical reaction, dependency, addiction, overdose, and death;

37 WHEREAS, individuals, as consumers of prescription drugs, should assume the  
38 primary responsibility for the proper and safe use, storage, and disposal of any drug prescribed  
39 to them;

40 WHEREAS, dispensers of prescription drugs should provide adequate instructions to  
41 consumers on how to fulfill their responsibilities regarding the safe use, storage, and disposal  
42 of prescription drugs;

43 WHEREAS, patient- and safety-centered prescription labels decrease the chance for  
44 misuse of prescribed drugs;

45 WHEREAS, patient- and safety-centered labels should include improved directions for  
46 use with wording that is easily understood by a non-medical professional or individual;

47 WHEREAS, properly and safely storing prescription medications reduces the potential  
48 for misuse, abuse, and theft;

49 WHEREAS, properly disposing of unused medications, by the expiration date, reduces  
50 the potential for misuse, abuse, and theft; and

51 WHEREAS, prescribers, dispensers, manufacturers, health insurers, and government  
52 agencies are each in a position to improve prescription drug patient safety:

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
54 Governor concurring therein, urge individuals, as consumers of prescription drugs, to assume  
55 the primary responsibility for the proper and safe use, storage, and disposal of any drug  
56 prescribed to them, and to encourage their prescription drug dispensers to provide adequate  
57 instructions on how to fulfill those responsibilities.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge the Utah  
59 Pharmacy Board, the Utah Pharmacists Association, and other related parties to meet during  
60 2011 to design a prescription label that is patient-centered and contains directions for safe use,  
61 including the purpose of the medication, that employ simple and clear terms that can be easily  
62 understood by non-medical professionals or individuals and improved font types and sizes to  
63 meet the needs of those who are visually impaired.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge the Utah  
65 Pharmacy Board and the Utah Pharmacists Association to provide updates on the progress of  
66 this project and present the improved prescription label format to the Health and Human  
67 Services Interim Committee by November 2011.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge federal,  
69 state, and local agencies, as entities created to protect the public, to continue working, on their  
70 own and through multi-agency projects like the Utah Prescription Pain Medication  
71 Management and Education Program and the Utah Pharmaceutical Drug Crime Project, to  
72 reduce prescription drug misuse, addiction, and death, to continue developing campaigns such  
73 as "Use Only as Directed" and "Clean Out the Cabinet," to educate the public about the dangers  
74 of prescription drug misuse, the importance of reading the prescription drug label and using  
75 only as directed, to promote the disposal of partially used or expired prescriptions, to continue  
76 developing drop-off sites and other secure and environmentally friendly methods for disposing  
77 of unused prescription drugs, and to continue promoting the availability and use of programs  
78 that treat prescription drug addiction.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the resolution be sent to the Utah  
80 Pharmacy Board, the Utah Pharmacists Association, the Utah Medical Association, the Utah  
81 Nurse Practitioners Association, the Utah Food Industry Association, the Utah Retail  
82 Merchants Association, the Utah Health Insurance Association, the Employers Council, the  
83 ERISA Industry Committee, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, the National  
84 Federation of Independent Business, the Health and Human Services Interim Committee, the  
85 Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, the Utah Department of Health, the Utah

86 Department of Human Services, the Utah Association of Local Health Departments, and the  
87 United States Department of Health and Human Services.