**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 40‑43‑83, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO IN‑STATE FACILITIES DEALING WITH PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN A CERTAIN CAPACITY, SO AS TO APPLY NOTICE PROVISIONS TO OUT‑OF‑STATE FACILITIES THAT SIMILARLY DEAL WITH PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, TO PROVIDE ALL SUCH FACILITIES PERMITTED IN THIS STATE MUST PROVIDE NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION TO THE PHARMACY BOARD, TO PROVIDE AN OUT‑OF‑STATE FACILITY MUST PAY SPECIFIC EXPENSES CONCERNING AN INSPECTION OF ITS FACILITIES BY THE BOARD, AND TO PROVIDE THE BOARD MAY CONTRACT WITH A THIRD‑PARTY TO INSPECT FACILITIES OF A LICENSEE; AND TO AMEND SECTION 40‑43‑89, RELATING TO WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTOR PERMITS, SO AS TO REQUIRE A SURETY BOND OR LETTER OF CREDIT, TO REQUIRE A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK OF THE APPLICANT, TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATION AND CONDUCT OF A DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE OF A WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTOR.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 40‑43‑83 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 40‑43‑83. (A) All facilities, whether located ~~within~~ in this State or outside of this State, engaging in the manufacture, production, sale, distribution, possession, or dispensing of prescription drugs or devices and all facilities located outside of this State whose primary business is mail order pharmacy service engaging in the sale, distribution, or dispensing of prescription drugs or devices in this State must be permitted by the Board of Pharmacy, and annually shall renew the permit by June first. Where operations are conducted at more than one location, each location must be permitted by the Board of Pharmacy.

This subsection does not apply to a college or university athletic department that dispenses prescription drugs or devices.

(B) Each permittee located outside of this State who ships, mails, distributes, or delivers prescription drugs or devices in this State and every pharmacy located outside of this State who ships, mails, distributes, or delivers prescription drugs or devices in this State shall designate a registered agent in this State for service of process. Any such permittee or pharmacy who does not so designate a registered agent is deemed to have designated the Secretary of State of this State to be its true and lawful attorney, upon whom may be served all legal process in any action or proceeding against such permittee growing out of or arising from such delivery. A copy of any such service of process shall be mailed to such permittee or pharmacy by the board by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, at the address such permittee has designated on its application for licensure in this State. If any such person is not permitted in this State, service on the Secretary of State only is sufficient service.

(C) The board shall determine and promulgate the permit classifications of all permits by regulation under this chapter and establish minimum standards for such permits.

(D) Each pharmacy shall have a pharmacist‑in‑charge; however, a college or university athletic department pharmacy is not required to have a pharmacist‑in‑charge. Whenever an applicable rule requires or prohibits action by a pharmacy, responsibility is that of the permit holder and the pharmacist‑in‑charge of the pharmacy, whether the ownership is a sole proprietor, partnership, association, corporation, or otherwise.

(E) The board may enter into agreements with other states or with third parties for the purpose of exchanging information concerning the permitting and inspection of entities located in this jurisdiction and those located outside this State.

(F) Permits issued under this section must be displayed in a conspicuous place in the permitted facility for which it was issued in such a manner that will enable an interested person to determine the name of the permittee, permit number, and permit expiration date. The permits are not transferable.

(G) This section must not be construed as precluding any person from owning or being a permit holder if all of the dispensing, compounding, and retailing of prescription drugs in it are under the supervision and direction of a licensed pharmacist.

(H) The Board of Pharmacy may deny or refuse to renew a permit if it determines that the granting or renewing of such permit would not be in the public interest. If an application is refused, the board shall notify the applicant in writing of its decision and the reasons for its decision.

(I) A permit is required for the sale, distribution, possession, or dispensing of drugs bearing the legend "Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without a prescription" including, but not limited to, pharmacies (institutional or community, public or private), nursing homes, hospitals, convalescent homes, extended care facilities, family planning clinics, public or private health clinics, infirmaries, wholesalers, correctional institutions, industrial health clinics, mail order vendors, and manufacturers within or outside this State.

(J) The board shall assess a civil penalty in the amount of fifty dollars for failure to display a permit as required by this section.

(K) The Department of Health and Environmental Control is exempt from the provisions of this section that require facilities distributing or dispensing prescription drugs to be permitted by the Board of Pharmacy and from the provisions of this section that require each pharmacy to have a pharmacist‑in‑charge; however, each health district in this State must have a permit to distribute or dispense prescription drugs.

(L) All facilities permitted by this State shall notify the board within five days of receipt of any order or decision by a regulatory agency imposing disciplinary action on the pharmacy. If the permit or registration in the state where the pharmacy is located is suspended or revoked, then the pharmacy’s registration in South Carolina must be immediately suspended or revoked for the same period of time. Failure to notify the board within five days will result in suspension pending board action.

(M) The board shall require initial inspections and periodic inspections biennially thereafter for permitting or permit renewal.

(N) A facility located outside of the State but permitted in this State shall pay, in addition to permit and renewal fees, the actual costs of the out‑of‑state inspection of the facility as required by the board, including the transportation, lodging, and related expenses of the board’s inspector. Nothing in this section may preclude the board from relying on an inspection of the facility conducted by the regulatory authority of the state within which the facility is located if the board has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with that state.

(O) The board may contract with a third party to undertake the inspection of the facilities of a person who seeks initial or continued licensure if the third party maintains a program that has standards that are acceptable to the board that the facility must meet for accreditation or certification by the third party. The board may rely on this accreditation or certification in determining eligibility for initial licensure or licensure renewal.”

SECTION 2. Section 40‑43‑89(A) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(A)(1) The following information must be provided to the board with an application for a wholesale distributor permit, and for any subsequent permit renewals:

(a) name, full business address, and telephone number of the applicant;

(b) all trade or business names used by the applicant;

(c) addresses, telephone numbers, and the names of contact persons for the facility used by the applicant for storage, handling, and distribution of drugs;

(d) the type of ownership or operation, i.e., partnership, corporation, or sole proprietorship; ~~and~~

(e) evidence of a minimum one hundred thousand dollars surety bond or certified letter of credit; and

(~~e~~f) name of the owner ~~and/or~~, operator, and designated representative of the applicant, including:

(i) if a person, the name, address, and social security number or date of birth, or both, of the person;

(ii) if a partnership, the name, address, and social security number or date of birth, or both, of each partner, and the name of the partnership;

(iii) if a corporation, the name, address, social security number or date of birth, or both, and title of each corporate officer and director, the corporate names, the name of the state of incorporation, and the name of the parent company, if any; the name, address, and social security number of each shareholder owning ten percent or more of the voting stock of the corporation, including over‑the‑counter stock, unless the stock is traded on a major stock exchange and not over‑the‑counter;

(iv) if a sole proprietorship, the full name, address, and social security number or date of birth, or both, of the sole proprietor and the name of the business entity.

(2) To be certified as a designated representative a person must:

(a) submit an application on a form furnished by the board and provide information that includes, but is not limited to:

(i) information required to complete the criminal and financial background checks;

(ii) date and place of birth;

(iii) occupations, positions of employment, and offices held during the past seven years;

(iv) principal business and address of any business corporation, or other organization in which the applicant held an occupation, position of employment, or office during the past seven years;

(v) whether the applicant, during the past seven years, has been enjoined, either temporarily or permanently, by a court of competent jurisdiction from violating any federal or state law regulating the possession, control, or wholesale distribution of prescription drugs or devices, together with details of the event;

(vi) description of any involvement by the applicant during the past seven years with any business, including any investments, other than the ownership of stock in a publicly traded company or mutual fund that manufactured, administered, prescribed, wholesale distributed, or stored prescription drugs and devices in which the business was named as a party in a lawsuit;

(vii) description of any criminal offense, excluding minor traffic violations, of which the applicant as an adult was found guilty, regardless of whether adjudication of guilt was withheld or whether he pled guilty or nolo contendere. If the applicant indicates that a criminal conviction is under appeal and submits a copy of the notice of appeal of the criminal offense, he must submit to the board a copy of the final written order of disposition within fifteen days after the disposition of the appeal;

(viii) photograph of the applicant taken within the previous thirty days under procedures as specified by the board;

(ix) name, address, occupation, and date and place of birth for each member of the applicant’s immediate family, unless the applicant is employed by a wholesale distributor that is a publicly held company. As used in this subparagraph, the term ‘member of immediate family’ includes the applicant’s current spouse, former spouse, children, parents, siblings, the spouses of the applicant’s children, and the spouses of the applicant’s siblings; and

(x) any other information the board considers relevant.

(3) A designated representative must have a minimum of two years of verifiable full‑time managerial or supervisory experience in a pharmacy or wholesale distributor licensed in this State or another state, where his responsibilities included but were not limited to record keeping, storage, and shipment of prescription drugs or devices.

(4) A person may serve as the designated representative for only one wholesale distributor at a time, except where more than one licensed wholesale distributor is colocated in the same facility and the wholesale distributors are members of an affiliated group, as defined in Section 1504 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(5) A designated representative must be actively involved in and aware of the actual daily operations of the wholesale distributor and must meet the following requirements:

(a) be employed full‑time in a managerial position by the wholesale distributor;

(b) be physically present at the wholesale distributor during normal business hours, except for time periods when absent due to illness, family illness or death, scheduled vacation, or other authorized absence; and

(c) be aware of, and knowledgeable about, all policies and procedures pertaining to the operations of a wholesale distributor.

(6) A designated representative must complete:

(a) continuing education programs specified by the board regarding federal and state laws in regard to the wholesale distribution, handling, and storage of prescription drugs or devices;

(b) if no formal continuing education is specified by the board, training programs that address applicable federal and state laws and are provided by qualified in‑house specialists, outside counsel, or consulting specialists with capabilities to help ensure compliance.

(7) The information collected pursuant to this section shall be made available only to the board or its designee and to state and federal law enforcement officials, if requested as part of an investigation. The board or its designee shall ensure confidentiality of the information collected under this section.

(8) A licensed wholesale distributor located outside of this State that conducts business in this State shall designate a registered agent in this State for service of process or must be considered to have designated the Secretary of State to be its true and lawful attorney, upon whom may be served all legal processes in any action or proceeding against such licensed wholesale distributor growing out of or arising from such wholesale distribution. The board must send by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, a copy of a service of process received by the board to the wholesale distributor at the address the licensed wholesale distributor has designated on its application for licensure under this chapter. If the wholesale distributor is not licensed in this State, service on the Secretary of State only is sufficient.

(~~2~~9) Changes in any information in this subsection must be submitted to the Board of Pharmacy within thirty days of the change.

(~~3~~10) Pursuant to Section 40‑43‑83(E) and Section 40‑43‑90, the information required for initial permitting or renewal of a permit of a wholesale distributor must be submitted on forms prepared by the Board of Pharmacy or by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy which shall act as a clearinghouse of applications for the board and must be submitted to the board or NABP accompanied by the applicable fee.

(~~4~~11) The board may suspend, revoke, deny, or refuse to renew the permit of wholesale drug distributors other than pharmacies dispensing or distributing drugs or devices directly to patients.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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