

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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SENATOR LYDA GREEN SENATE DISTRICT G

Sponsor Statement: Senate Bill 196 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

“An Act relating to establishing a controlled substance prescription database.”

Posted: January 15, 2008

Contact: Ginger Blaisdell, 465-5038, Professional Aide

“According to the 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, if tobacco and alcohol are discounted, prescription medication ranks second only to marijuana as a source of drug abuse in the United States. Psychoactive medications are most often targeted for abuse, especially opiates intended for pain relief. For several decades, a community-based matrix of physicians, pharmacists, law enforcement entities, state medical boards and federal regulatory agencies has evolved to attempt to prevent prescription drug abuse.”¹

During the past decade, 40 states have launched Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP) with intention to curb prescription drug abuse. PDMPs provide a tool for prescribers, dispensers, law enforcement and medical boards to review drug trends. The PDMP database will provide immediate information to doctors as they review a patient’s prescription needs, and pharmacists to review a customer’s history before dispensing medication. This proactive approach to reviewing prescription trends will help control the availability of prescription narcotics to those who may not medically need them. Licensing boards will be able to use the data at the time of licensure and law enforcement will be able to request information as part of a court order, subpoena or affidavit for an active case.

Federal funding is available to establish and operate a PDMP and cost savings to the State of Alaska can be achieved by eliminating unnecessary prescription use. A PDMP will provide timely prescription drug information to assist in prevention of diversion and promote safe and effective health care for Alaska’s citizens.

I would appreciate your support of this bill.

Additional materials can be found at <http://www.aksenate.org/SB196>

¹ <http://www.mayoclinicproceedings.com>