

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2624

By: Vaughn, Morgan, Maddux
and Hastings of the
House

and

Hendrick of the Senate

An Act relating to public health and safety; providing for pain management; providing purpose statement; authorizing administration of certain drugs in excess of recommended dosage; specifying conditions and restrictions; providing for promulgation of policies, guidelines and rules; providing for contents and purpose; amending 63 O.S. 1991, Section 2-103, which relates to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control Commission; modifying qualifications for agents; removing certain criteria and requirements for employment; expanding use for special agents; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2-551 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Schedule II, III, IV and V controlled dangerous drugs have useful and legitimate medical and scientific purposes and are necessary to maintain the health and general welfare of the people of this state.

B. The State of Oklahoma recognizes that principles of quality medical practice dictate that the people of the State of Oklahoma have access to appropriate and effective pain relief. The appropriate application of up-to-date knowledge and treatment modalities can serve to improve the quality of life for those patients who suffer from pain as well as to reduce the morbidity, and costs associated with untreated or inappropriately treated pain. The State of Oklahoma encourages physicians to view effective pain management as a part of quality medical practice for all patients with pain, acute or chronic. It is especially important for patients who experience pain as a result of terminal illness.

C. If, in the judgment of the medical doctor or the doctor of osteopathic medicine, appropriate pain management warrants a high dosage of controlled dangerous drugs and the benefit of the relief expected outweighs the risk of the high dosage, the medical doctor or doctor of osteopathic medicine may administer such a dosage, even if its use may increase the risk of death, so long as it is not also furnished for the purpose of causing, or the purpose of assisting in causing, death for any reason and so long as it falls within policies, guidelines and rules of the Oklahoma State Board of

Medical Licensure and Supervision or the Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners.

D. The Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision and the Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners shall issue policies, guidelines or rules that ensure that physicians who are engaged in the appropriate treatment of pain are not subject to disciplinary action, and the Boards shall consider policies and guidelines developed by national organizations with expertise in pain medicine or in a medical discipline for this purpose.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 1991, Section 2-103, is amended to read as follows:

Section 2-103. A. The Director shall be appointed by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control Commission. The Director of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control on January 1, 1984, shall be initially appointed as Director. The succeeding Director shall, at the time of his appointment, have a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university and at least five (5) years' experience in drug law enforcement. The Director may appoint necessary assistants, agents, and other personnel to perform the work of the office and may prescribe their titles and duties and fix their compensation pursuant to Merit System rules. The Director may appoint an employee to the position of Public Information/Education Officer. Said position shall be unclassified and exempt from the rules and procedures of the Office of Personnel Management, except leave regulations. The office of the Director shall be located at a suitable place in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

B. 1. Agents appointed by the Director shall have the powers of peace officers generally, ~~except that;~~ provided, the Director may appoint special agents ~~for to meet~~ specific investigatory ~~assignments need,~~ who do not meet the age and educational requirements ~~outlined herein and the salary provision outlined herein shall not apply to these special agents as specified in this section.~~ Agents

2. On and after July 1, 1998, agents shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and shall have ~~sixty (60) hours'~~ college credit from an accredited college or university and ~~two (2) years'~~ law enforcement experience, ~~or a Bachelor's Degree, or at least four (4) years'~~ drug enforcement experience from an accredited college or university.

3. Each entering agent shall be required to serve one (1) year in a probationary status as a prerequisite to being placed on permanent status.

C. Agents appointed pursuant to the provisions of this section shall have the responsibility of investigating alleged violations and shall have the authority to arrest those suspected of having violated the provisions of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act.

D. A commissioned employee of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control shall be entitled to receive upon retirement by reason of length of service, the continued custody and possession of the sidearm and badge carried by such employee immediately prior to retirement.

E. A commissioned employee of the Bureau may be entitled to receive, upon retirement by reason of disability, the continued custody and possession of the sidearm and badge carried by such employee immediately prior to retirement upon written approval of the Director.

F. Custody and possession of the sidearm and badge of a commissioned employee killed in the line of duty may be awarded by the Director to the spouse or next of kin of the deceased employee.
SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 1998.
Passed the House of Representatives the 22nd day of May, 1998.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 26th day of May, 1998.

President of the Senate