

including but not limited to physicians, nurses, pharmacists, hospitals, and advocates to examine prescription drug monitoring and other ways to limit prescription drug abuse and diversion. This is an important issue that must be addressed in the appropriate manner. The advisory group will focus on issues such as the use of electronic records, electronic monitoring of controlled drug prescriptions, a standard of care for pain management, patient confidentiality, and will emphasize the treatment of addiction. DHMH and the Maryland Health Care Commission will be required to report on their progress and recommendations prior to the end of this year so that Maryland can move forward to address these important issues.

For the above stated reason, I have vetoed House Bill 1287.

Very truly yours,
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

House Bill No. 1287

AN ACT concerning

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

FOR the purpose of establishing requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to establish and maintain a certain Prescription Drug Monitoring Program within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; establishing the powers and duties of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene under the Program; requiring prescription monitoring data to be destroyed after a certain time period unless a certain request for retention of certain information is submitted to the Department; creating a certain Advisory Board on Prescription Drug Monitoring to assist in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the Program; establishing the chair, the terms of the members, and the responsibilities of the Board; creating requiring the Secretary to appoint a multidisciplinary consultation team to assist in the interpretation of prescription monitoring data; requiring dispensers to submit electronically certain information to the Program except in certain circumstances; prohibiting the Board and the Secretary from charging a fee or imposing an assessment on certain persons for certain purposes; making prescription monitoring data confidential and privileged and not subject to certain means of legal compulsion except under certain circumstances; authorizing certain agencies and persons to obtain access to prescription monitoring data under certain circumstances; establishing immunity from civil liability for certain agencies and persons relating to the operation and use of the Program; providing for education and training relating to the Program; establishing penalties for violations of the requirements of the Program; defining certain terms; providing that implementation of the Program is contingent on the Board obtaining certain federal, State, or private funds; prohibiting the Program from collecting prescription monitoring data before a certain date; and generally relating to the creation and operation of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

BY adding to