

HB 628 -- DENTAL PRESCRIPTIONS

SPONSOR: Coleman (97)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 6 to 2.

This bill prohibits a dentist from writing a prescription for long-acting or extended-release opioids for the treatment of acute dental pain, unless, in the professional judgment of the dentist, the use of said opioid is necessary to treat the patient's acute pain. If the dentist prescribes a long-acting or extended-release opioid, the dentist must document in the patient's record the reason for the necessity of the type of opioid used.

This bill requires a dentist to avoid prescribing an opioid dose of greater than 50 morphine milligram equivalent (MME) per day for the treatment of acute dental pain, unless, in the professional judgment of the dentist, the use of said dosage is necessary to treat the patient's acute pain. If the dentist prescribes a greater dose, the dentist must document in the patient's record the reason for the particular dose. The Missouri Dental Board must maintain an MME conversion chart and instructions for calculating MME on its website.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this legislation is important in attempting to prevent opioid abuse and protect patients, as research shows that in preventing opioid dependency, it is important to limit the duration and dosage of an opioid prescription. However, the legislation still allows the dentist to exceed the parameters if they feel it is in the best interest of the patient.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Coleman; Brian Barnett, Missouri Dental Board; and Shantel Smith, Missouri Dental Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.