



# SENATE BILL 750: Health-Local Confinement/Vet. Controlled Sub.

2017-2018 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	June 12, 2018
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Krawiec, Pate	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jessica Boney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 750 addresses health issues in local confinement facilities and ensures that state prisons are full participants in the NC Health Information Exchange (HIE Network) known as HealthConnex, as recommend by the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services (JLOCHH); amends the North Carolina Controlled Substance Act and the Controlled Substances Reporting System (CSRS) pertaining to the practice of veterinary medicine; requires continuing education for veterinarians on controlled substance abuse; and includes the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board on the Prescription Drug Abuse Advisory Committee.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to H1045, as introduced by Reps. Dobson, Lambeth, R. Turner, which is currently in House Health.]

## BILL ANALYSIS:

**Section 1** requires that the medical examiner and the coroner must be notified immediately if a prisoner in the custody of a local confinement facility dies, regardless of the physical location of the prisoner at the time of death.

**Section 2** requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to study how to improve prisoner health screening with a goal of improving the determination that a prisoner in a local confinement facility has been prescribed life-saving prescription medications and a process to ensure the timely administration of those prescription medications. DHHS is required to report on or before November 1, 2018 to the JLOCHHS.

**Section 3(a)** requires the Department of Public Safety, DHHS, and the Government Data Analytics Center (GDAC) within the Department of Information Technology (DIT) to work collaboratively with organizations representing local government and law enforcement to facilitate the secure transmission of health information pertaining to prisoners in local confinement facilities through participation in the HIE Network, known as NC HealthConnex. **Section 3(b)** requires the Department of Public Safety, DHHS, and GDAC to ensure prison facilities are full participants in NC HealthConnex. **Section 3(c)** requires DHHS and GDAC, to provide an interim report to JLOCHHS on or before October 1, 2018 and a final report on or before October 1, 2019.

**Section 4** clarifies a practitioner does not include a veterinarian for purposes of this section, which exempts a veterinarian from having to review patient information in the CSRS prior to prescribing a targeted controlled substance.

**Section 5** states a veterinarian may continue to prescribe targeted controlled substances from valid written, oral or facsimile prescriptions. This further clarifies the exemption for a veterinarian from the electronic prescription requirement. The existing statute and this clarification are not effective until January 1, 2020. Under current law, a dispenser who dispenses any Schedule II to V Controlled Substance must report prescription information to the CSRS. **Section 6** clarifies a dispenser includes a veterinarian for purposes of this section.

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Under current law a practitioner may not prescribe more than a five day supply of any targeted controlled substance upon initial consultation and treatment of a patient for acute pain or prescribe more than a seven day supply of any targeted controlled substance for post-operative acute pain following a surgical procedure. **Section 7** exempts prescriptions for controlled substances wholly administered in an emergency facility, veterinary hospital or animal hospital as defined in G.S. 90-181.1, from the five day and seven day limitations on prescriptions for acute pain. Section 7 clarifies the definition of acute pain does not include pain treated as part of cancer care, hospice care or palliative care provided by a veterinarian. Section 7 modifies the definition of surgical procedure to include procedures performed by a veterinarian.

**Section 8** requires the Veterinary Medical Board to require continuing education on the abuse of controlled substances as a condition of license renewal.

**Section 9** adds the Veterinary Medical Board to the Prescription Drug Abuse Advisory Committee.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Section 5 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2020. Section 8 of this act becomes effective when it becomes law and applies to renewal applications received in 2020. The remainder of this Act becomes effective when it becomes law.

\*Theresa Matula contributed to this Bill Summary.