

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 799

S.P. 71

In Senate, March 5, 2021

**An Act To Amend the Procedures for Veterinarians in the
Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MOORE of Washington.
Cosponsored by Senator: BENNETT of Oxford, Representatives: MADIGAN of Waterville,
PERRY of Calais.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §4878, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 360, §9, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **2. Electronic prescribing.** A veterinarian licensed under this chapter whose scope of
5 practice includes prescribing a benzodiazepine or an opioid medication and who has the
6 capability to electronically prescribe shall prescribe all benzodiazepine or opioid
7 medication electronically by July 1, ~~2022~~ 2025 or when an electronic platform for
8 prescribing is widely available for veterinarians if that occurs before July 1, ~~2022~~ 2025 as
9 determined by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services. A veterinarian licensed
10 under this chapter unable to comply with the electronic prescribing requirements of this
11 subsection may request a waiver from the Commissioner of Health and Human Services
12 for circumstances in which exceptions are appropriate as determined by the Commissioner
13 of Health and Human Services.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill delays until July 1, 2025 the implementation of the requirement that a
16 veterinarian whose scope of practice includes prescribing a benzodiazepine or an opioid
17 medication prescribe all benzodiazepine or opioid medication electronically.