

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require certain practitioners authorized to prescribe controlled substances to complete continuing education.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

---

Mr. MARKEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

---

**A BILL**

To require certain practitioners authorized to prescribe controlled substances to complete continuing education.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Safer Prescribing of  
5 Controlled Substances Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR**  
7 **CERTAIN PRACTITIONERS PRESCRIBING**  
8 **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.**

9 Section 303 of the Controlled Substances Act (21  
10 U.S.C. 823) is amended—

1           (1) in subsection (f), in the matter preceding  
2           paragraph (1), by striking “The Attorney General  
3           shall register” and inserting “Subject to subsection  
4           (j), the Attorney General shall register”;

5           (2) by redesignating subsection (j) as sub-  
6           section (k); and

7           (3) by inserting after subsection (i) the fol-  
8           lowing:

9           “(j)(1) In this subsection, the term ‘covered practi-  
10          tioner’ means a practitioner that is not a hospital, phar-  
11          macy, or veterinarian.

12          “(2) As a condition of granting or renewing the reg-  
13          istration of a covered practitioner under this part to dis-  
14          pense, or conduct research with, controlled substances in  
15          schedule II, III, IV, or V, the Attorney General shall re-  
16          quire the covered practitioner to complete training  
17          (through classroom situations, seminars at professional  
18          society meetings, electronic communications, or otherwise)  
19          that the Secretary of Health and Human Services deter-  
20          mines meets the requirements under paragraph (3).

21          “(3) The training provided for purposes of paragraph  
22          (2) shall, at a minimum, expose covered practitioners to—

23                  “(A) best practices for pain management, in-  
24          cluding alternatives to prescribing controlled sub-

1 stances and other alternative therapies to decrease  
2 the use of opioids;

3 “(B) responsible prescribing of pain medica-  
4 tions, as described in the Centers for Disease Con-  
5 trol and Prevention Guideline for Prescribing  
6 Opioids for Chronic Pain;

7 “(C) methods for diagnosing, treating, and  
8 managing a substance use disorder, including the  
9 use of medications approved by the Food and Drug  
10 Administration and evidence-based nonpharma-  
11 cological therapies;

12 “(D) linking patients to evidence-based treat-  
13 ment for substance use disorders; and

14 “(E) tools to manage adherence and diversion  
15 of controlled substances, including prescription drug  
16 monitoring programs, drug screening, informed con-  
17 sent, overdose education, and the use of opioid over-  
18 dose antagonists.

19 “(4) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Serv-  
20 ices Administration shall establish or support the estab-  
21 lishment of not less than 1 training module that meets  
22 the requirements under paragraph (3) that is provided—

23 “(A) to any covered practitioner registered or  
24 applying for a registration under this part to dis-

1           pense, or conduct research with, controlled sub-  
2           stances in schedule II, III, IV, or V;

3                   “(B) online; and

4                   “(C) free of charge.

5           “(5) The Secretary of Health and Human Services  
6 shall establish, maintain, and periodically update a pub-  
7 lically available database providing information relating to  
8 training modules that meet the requirements under para-  
9 graph (3).

10           “(6) Not later than 5 years after the date of enact-  
11 ment of the Safer Prescribing of Controlled Substances  
12 Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall  
13 evaluate and make publically available a report describing  
14 how exposure to the training required under this sub-  
15 section has changed prescribing patterns of controlled sub-  
16 stances.”.