

SA Legislative Highlights 2011-2012

- On September 6, 2011, **Executive Order 5-11** signed by Governor Tomblin 9/6/2011
 - Created 6 **Regional Task Forces (RTF's)**
 - Created the **Governor's Substance Abuse Advisory Council (GACSA)**
 - Called for action to implement the **Statewide Substance Abuse Strategic Action Plan** & Make recommendations regarding service provision, education, policy & legislation
 - Appointed **DHHR to coordinate and facilitate** requirements set forth in the E.O.
- Working with the Regional Task Forces and the Governor's Advisory Council on Substance Abuse (GACSA), **Governor Tomblin proposed legislation** to control the supply and enhance substance abuse prevention. Senate Bill 437 passed during the 2011-2012 legislative session.
- **Senate Bill 437** does the following:
 - Decreases prescription reporting time in the Controlled Substances Database from 7 days to 24 hours
 - Establishes an advisory council to recommend enhancements to the prescription database and advise on the feasibility of real-time reporting.
 - Creates a review committee to flag irregular prescribing patterns by physicians and abnormal usage by patients.
 - Codifies new licensing regulations to protect legitimate pain clinics and make sure those with real chronic pain can find treatment.

- Requires penalties for operating a chronic pain clinic without a license.
- Tightens requirements for dispensing controlled substances from doctor offices
- Requires “best practice” prescribing education for health care professionals as well as education in anti-drug diversion.
- Tightens reporting requirements for methadone treatment centers and requires random, monthly drug test for patients.
- Defines the existence of a valid practitioner-patient relationship prior to dispensation of prescriptions.
- Implements a real-time, stop-sale tracking system for pseudoephedrine purchases to block the sale of excess product when attempted.

Overview

SB 437 is a comprehensive bill that focuses on regulation and education while systematically addressing the multi-faceted problem of substance abuse that hampers WV citizens' well-being and the state's economic vitality is the key to success. Other related SA bills include signage for pain clinics and drug testing for Workforce WV participants.