|  |
| --- |
| BILL ANALYSIS |

|  |
| --- |
| S.B. 420 |
| By: Buckingham |
| Public Health |
| Committee Report (Unamended) |

|  |
| --- |
| **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE** There are concerns that requiring pharmacists to check the prescription monitoring program prior to providing a refill of opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, or carisoprodol adds an administrative burden on pharmacists and can cause delays for consumers. It has been pointed out that this requirement has a limited benefit to public safety since the most widely abused prescription drugs are not eligible for refills. S.B. 420 seeks to address these concerns by excepting a dispenser from the requirement to check the prescription monitoring program when refilling a prescription for these drugs. |
| **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision. |
| **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY** It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution. |
| **ANALYSIS** S.B. 420 amends the Health and Safety Code to except a dispenser from the requirement to access official prescription information before prescribing or dispensing opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, or carisoprodol if the dispenser is refilling a prescription. |
| **EFFECTIVE DATE** September 1, 2019. |