

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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SENATE BILL 290

Short Title: Allow Early Refills of Prescription Eye Drops. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Curtis (Primary Sponsor); Brock, Rabin, Sanderson, and Waddell.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 17, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT AMENDING THE PHARMACY PRACTICE ACT TO AUTHORIZE
3 PHARMACISTS TO DISPENSE EARLY REFILLS OF TOPICAL OPHTHALMIC
4 PRODUCTS (EYE DROPS).

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 90-85.32(a) reads as rewritten:

7 "(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Board may adopt rules governing
8 the filling, refilling and transfer of prescription orders not inconsistent with other provisions of
9 law regarding the distribution of drugs and devices. The rules shall ~~assure~~ do all of the
10 following:

- 11 (1) Assure the safe and secure distribution of drugs and devices. ~~Prescriptions~~
12 (2) Prohibit prescriptions marked PRN shall not be from being refilled more than
13 one year after the date issued by the prescriber unless otherwise specified.
14 (3) In order to prevent unintended interruptions in drug therapy and if there are
15 authorized refills remaining, permit both of the following with respect to
16 dispensing topical ophthalmic products:
17 a. Filling or refilling a prescription at seventy percent (70%) of the
18 predicted number of days of use without obtaining subsequent
19 authorization or a new authorization from the prescriber.
20 b. For patients who have difficulty using the topical ophthalmic product
21 and with authorization from the prescriber, filling or refilling a
22 prescription earlier than seventy percent (70%) of the predicted
23 number of days of use."

24 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2015.

