



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Raised Bill No. 415

LCO No. 1478

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING PREVENTING DEATHS FROM DRUG OVERDOSE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) For purposes of sections
2 1 to 7, inclusive, of this act:

3 (1) "Opioid antagonist" means naloxone hydrochloride or any other
4 similarly acting and equally safe drug approved by the federal Food
5 and Drug Administration for the treatment of drug overdose;

6 (2) "Department" means the Department of Public Health; and

7 (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health.

8 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) (a) The Commissioner of
9 Public Health shall publish a report on drug overdose trends state-
10 wide that reviews state death rates from available data to ascertain
11 changes in the causes or rates of fatal and nonfatal drug overdose for
12 the preceding period of not less than five years. The report shall also
13 provide information on interventions that would be effective in
14 reducing the rate of fatal or nonfatal drug overdose. The report shall
15 include: (1) Trends in drug overdose death rates; (2) trends in

16 emergency room utilization related to drug overdoses and the cost
17 impact of emergency room utilization; (3) trends in utilization of
18 prehospital and emergency services and the cost impact of emergency
19 services utilization; (4) suggested improvements in data collection; and
20 (5) a description of other interventions effective in reducing the rate of
21 fatal or nonfatal drug overdoses. The commissioner shall report, in
22 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, on or before
23 January 1, 2003, and annually thereafter, to the Governor and the joint
24 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
25 matters relating to public health.

26 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) The Commissioner of Public
27 Health shall establish a program to provide for the production and
28 publication of drug overdose prevention, recognition and response
29 literature. The program shall also provide assistance in the
30 development of curricula for use by professionals, organizations,
31 individuals or communities interested in the prevention of fatal and
32 nonfatal drug overdose, including, but not limited to, drug users, jail
33 and prison personnel, jail and prison inmates, drug treatment
34 professionals, emergency medical personnel, hospital staff, families
35 and associates of drug users, peace officers, firefighters, public safety
36 officers, needle exchange and harm reduction agency staff and other
37 interested people. In addition to information regarding drug overdose
38 prevention, recognition and response, literature produced by the
39 department shall stress that drug use remains illegal, highly dangerous
40 and that complete abstinence from illegal drug use is the healthiest
41 choice.

42 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) (a) The Commissioner of
43 Public Health shall award grants, in accordance with this section, to
44 support local drug overdose prevention, recognition and response
45 projects Municipal health departments, correctional institutions and
46 community-based organizations may apply to the Department of
47 Public Health for a grant pursuant to this section at such time and in
48 such manner as the commissioner prescribes.

49 (b) In awarding grants, the commissioner shall consider the
50 necessity for overdose prevention projects in various settings and shall
51 encourage all grant applicants to develop interventions that will be
52 effective and viable in their local areas.

53 (c) The commissioner shall give priority for grants to proposals that
54 in addition to providing life-saving interventions and responses,
55 provide information to drug users on how to access drug treatment or
56 other strategies for abstaining from illegal drugs. The commissioner
57 shall give preference to proposals that include one or more of the
58 following elements: (1) Policies and projects to encourage people,
59 including drug users, to call 9-1-1 when they witness a potentially fatal
60 drug overdose; (2) drug overdose prevention, recognition and
61 response education projects in jails, prisons, drug treatment centers
62 and other organizations that work with, or have access to, drug users,
63 their families and communities; (3) drug overdose recognition and
64 response training, including rescue breathing, in jails, prisons, drug
65 treatment centers and other organizations that work with, or have
66 access to, drug users, their families and communities; (4) the
67 production and distribution of targeted or mass media materials on
68 drug overdose prevention and response; (5) naloxone hydrochloride
69 prescription or distribution projects; (6) the institution of education
70 and training projects on drug overdose response and treatment for
71 emergency services and law enforcement personnel; and (7) a system
72 of parent, family and survivor education and mutual support groups.
73 The commissioner shall seek grants from private foundations, the
74 federal government and other sources to fund the grants under this
75 section and to fund an evaluation of the programs supported by the
76 grants.

77 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) The Commissioner of Public
78 Health shall provide advice to state, county and city officials on the
79 growing drug overdose crisis, including all of the following: (1) The
80 prevalence of drug overdose incidents; (2) trends in drug overdose
81 incidents; and (3) solutions to the drug overdose crisis.

82 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) (a) A person, other than a
83 licensed health care professional permitted by law to administer an
84 opioid antagonist, may administer an opioid antagonist to another
85 person if: (1) Such person, in good faith, believes the other person is
86 experiencing a drug overdose; and (2) such person acts with
87 reasonable care in administering the drug to the other person.

88 (b) A person who administers an opioid antagonist to another
89 person pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall not be liable for
90 damages in a civil action or subject to criminal prosecution as a result
91 of the administration of the drug.

92 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) A licensed health care
93 professional who is permitted by law to prescribe an opioid antagonist,
94 if acting with reasonable care, may prescribe, dispense, distribute or
95 administer an opioid antagonist without being liable for damages in a
96 civil action or subject to criminal prosecution.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To provide programs and grants for the prevention of death by drug overdose.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]