



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1144

January Session, 2003

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF DEATHS FROM DRUG OVERDOSE.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2003*) The Commissioner of Public Health
2 shall publish a report on state-wide drug overdose trends that reviews
3 state death rates from available data to ascertain changes in the causes
4 or rates of fatal and nonfatal drug overdoses for the preceding period
5 of not less than three years. The report shall also provide information
6 on interventions that would be effective in reducing the rate of fatal or
7 nonfatal drug overdoses. The report shall include: (1) Trends in drug
8 overdose death rates; (2) suggested improvements in data collection;
9 and (3) a description of interventions effective in reducing the rate of
10 fatal or nonfatal drug overdoses. The commissioner shall report, in
11 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, on or before
12 January 1, 2004, to the Governor and the joint standing committee of
13 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
14 health.

15 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) A licensed health care
16 professional who is permitted by law to prescribe an opioid antagonist
17 may, if acting with reasonable care, prescribe, dispense, distribute or
18 administer an opioid antagonist to a drug user in need of such
19 intervention without being liable for damages to such person in a civil
20 action or subject to criminal prosecution. For purposes of this section,

21 "opioid antagonist" means naloxone hydrochloride or any other
22 similarly acting and equally safe drug approved by the federal Food
23 and Drug Administration for the treatment of drug overdose.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*