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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **HB 5597**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOIDS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a 10-member task force to study protocols used by first responders, emergency medical services and hospital personnel, police officers, and medical examiners following an opioid overdose death. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Public Health and Public Safety committees by January 1, 2022. The task force terminates on that date or the date it submits its report, whichever is later.

The bill also requires the DPH commissioner, by January 1, 2022, to (1) establish guidelines for the use of evidence-based, non-pharmaceutical therapies to treat chronic pain, including chiropractic treatment and physical therapy, and (2) conduct educational and outreach activities to raise awareness of these guidelines.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021, except that the task force provision takes effect upon passage.

#### **TASK FORCE MEMBERS AND MEETINGS**

Under the bill, the task force consists of the emergency services and public protection and public health commissioners, or their designees, and the following appointed members: (1) two each by the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore and (2) one each by the House and Senate majority and minority leaders. Appointing authorities must make their initial appointments within 30 days after the bill's passage and fill any vacancies. Members appointed by legislative leaders may be legislators.

The bill requires the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore to select the task force's chairpersons from among its

members. The chairpersons must schedule the task force's first meeting, which must be held within 60 days after the bill's passage. The Public Health Committee's administrative staff must serve as the task force's administrative staff.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 33 Nay 0 (03/29/2021)