
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 1011 (File 295, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF OPIOID ANTAGONISTS AND EPINEPHRINE CARTRIDGE INJECTORS BY POLICE OFFICERS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires law enforcement units to (1) require their police officers to be trained in using opioid antagonists (e.g., Narcan) and (2) acquire and maintain a supply of these medications for use by their police officers when responding to a medical emergency. A police officer who completes the training must be permitted to carry opioid antagonists and administer them to an individual whom the officer believes in good faith is experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose.

The bill also requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), in consultation with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and Department of Public Health, to convene a working group to study the feasibility of requiring police officers to carry epinephrine cartridge injectors (e.g., Epi-Pens) and administer them to an individual whom the officer believes in good faith is experiencing anaphylaxis.

*Senate Amendment "A" (1) removes requirements concerning epinephrine cartridge injectors that were similar to those for opioid antagonists under the bill, (2) deletes a provision granting immunity from civil and criminal liability to certain officers who provide or administer an injector, and (3) adds the working group.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

POST WORKING GROUP

Under the bill, the working group must at least:

1. determine whether the need for such a requirement exists by examining data on the use of these injectors by police officers

and other first responders and balancing the potential public benefit with the potential impact to officers and law enforcement units;

2. address issues associated with such a requirement, including the cost of implementation and training police officers in the administration of the injectors; and
3. consult a medical expert about the shelf life and safe storage practices of the injectors.

Under the bill, if the working group determines the need for such a requirement exists, it must make recommendations for legislation about implementation. POST must submit a report on the working group's findings and recommendations to the Public Safety and Security Committee by January 1, 2023. The working group must terminate on the date the report is submitted or January 1, 2023, whichever is later.

BACKGROUND

Definitions

By law and under the bill, a "law enforcement unit" is any state or municipal agency or department (or tribal agency or department created and governed under a memorandum of agreement) whose primary functions include enforcing criminal or traffic laws; preserving public order; protecting life and property; or preventing, detecting, or investigating crime (CGS § 7-294a).

"Police officers" are sworn members of an organized local police department or the State Police; appointed constables who perform criminal law enforcement duties; special police officers appointed under law (e.g., those appointed to investigate public assistance fraud); or any members of a law enforcement unit who perform police duties (CGS § 7-294a).

"Opioid antagonist" is naloxone hydrochloride (e.g., Narcan) or any other similarly acting and equally safe drug that the Food and Drug Administration has approved for treating a drug overdose (CGS § 17a-

714a).

“Epinephrine cartridge injector” is an automatic, prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment (e.g., Epi-Pens) used to deliver epinephrine in a standard dose for an emergency first aid response to allergic reactions (CGS § 19a-909).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/18/2021)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 47 Nay 2 (05/17/2021)