

---

## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 5244**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF OPIOID ANTAGONISTS IN SCHOOLS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to do the following:

1. by July 1, 2022, and in consultation with the Department of Consumer Protection and Department of Public Health (DPH), develop guidelines for boards of education (local and regional) to use to store and administer opioid antagonists (e.g., Narcan) and
2. starting in FY 23, annually provide grants to boards of education to acquire and maintain opioid antagonists as required by the bill.

Under the bill, a board of education may apply for a grant in a time and manner prescribed by SDE.

The bill authorizes a school nurse, or in the absence of a school nurse, a qualified school employee, to maintain opioid antagonists to administer emergency first aid to a student who is experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose and does not have a prior written authorization for administering this medication. It requires the State Board of Education (SBE), in consultation with the DPH commissioner, to adopt regulations that specify conditions and procedures for school personnel storing and administering opioid antagonists to these students.

The bill also requires boards of education to include information on administering opioid antagonists in the in-service training they must provide for their teachers, administrators, and other certified pupil

personnel.

Lastly, the bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to conduct a free instructional program at least four times annually that teaches participants how to provide adolescent screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment training to other individuals. Local health departments must offer training in these matters to their employees and the public, and several other entities may do so, including boards of education.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except for the provision requiring boards of education to include information on opioid antagonist administration in their required in-service trainings, which takes effect July 1, 2022.

## **§ 1 — OPIOID ANTAGONIST ADMINISTRATION**

### ***School Nurse and Qualified Employee Authorization***

The bill allows a school nurse, or in the absence of one, a qualified school employee, to maintain opioid antagonists to administer emergency first aid to a student who is experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose but does not have prior written authorization from a parent or guardian, or a prior order from a qualified medical professional to receive this medication.

Under the bill, a school nurse or principal must select qualified school employees to administer an opioid antagonist and at least one of these qualified school employees must be on school grounds during regular school hours when the school nurse is not there. A qualified school employee may only administer an opioid antagonist when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. A school nurse or qualified school employee administering an opioid antagonist must do so in accordance with the school board's adopted policies and procedures.

Under the bill, a school nurse or qualified school employee may not administer an opioid antagonist unless they complete training in its distribution and administration (1) under a local agreement with a prescriber or pharmacist (see BACKGROUND) or (2) in a training

offered by DPH.

The bill prohibits schools from administering opioid antagonists to a student under these provisions if the student's parent or guardian has stated in writing that he or she does not consent to its use. A parent or guardian may submit this request to the school nurse or school medical advisor, if any.

**Definitions**

By law and under the bill, an "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 (see CGS § 17a-714a).

Under the bill, a "qualified school employee" is a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, coach, school paraprofessional, or licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district. A "qualified medical professional" is a state-licensed physician, optometrist, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant.

**§ 4 — DCF INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**

The bill requires DCF to conduct an instructional program using a training model that enables participants to provide adolescent screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment training to other individuals. DCF must offer the program to employees of:

1. local or district health departments,
2. youth service bureaus,
3. municipalities,
4. paid municipal or volunteer fire departments,
5. local police departments, and
6. local or regional boards of education.

DCF must conduct the instructional program at least four times a

year, at no charge to participants, and may conduct each session in a different region of the state during the year.

The bill (1) requires local health departments and (2) allows district health departments, youth service bureaus, municipalities, paid municipal or volunteer fire departments, local police departments, or boards of education, to offer free training in adolescent screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment to their employees or members of the public. The employee providing the instructional program must have participated in the program conducted by DCF.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Opioid Antagonist Distribution Agreements With Certain Entities***

By law, prescribers or pharmacists certified to prescribe an opioid antagonist may enter into an agreement with certain entities, including government agencies, concerning the distribution and administration of opioid antagonists. The agreement must address the agencies' opioid antagonist storage, handling, labeling, recalls, and record keeping.

The prescriber or pharmacist must train the individuals who will distribute or administer opioid antagonists under the agreement. Additionally, individuals who will distribute or administer opioid antagonists must receive training before doing so.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13    Nay 0    (03/10/2022)