
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6696

AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND AND PERSONAL OPIOID DRUG DEACTIVATION AND DISPOSAL PRODUCTS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires Connecticut-licensed pharmacists to give patients, when dispensing an opioid drug to them, a free “personal opioid drug deactivation and disposal product.” Under the bill, these are products that enable a patient to permanently deactivate and destroy an opioid drug.

However, the bill only requires pharmacists to give these products if Opioid Settlement Fund moneys are available to cover any documented expenses pharmacists or pharmacies incur for doing so.

The bill correspondingly authorizes:

1. Connecticut pharmacies and pharmacists to seek reimbursement for providing these products from the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee, which administers the state’s Opioid Settlement Fund (see BACKGROUND);
2. reimbursement from the fund’s moneys to pharmacies and pharmacists for these documented expenses (under current law, only nonprofit and government entities can apply for funds); and
3. the consumer protection commissioner to adopt regulations to implement the bill’s opioid disposal product requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

BACKGROUND

Related Bills

sHB 6698, favorably reported by the General Law Committee, makes existing law's pilot peer navigator program for people with opioid use disorder a statewide initiative, and explicitly authorizes use of Opioid Settlement Fund monies to pay for administering it.

sHB 6718, favorably reported by the Children's Committee, appropriates \$400,000 from the Opioid Settlement Fund in FY 24 for costs of distributing pharmacy warning stickers and labels for opioid drugs.

Opioid Settlement Fund (CGS § 17a-674b et seq.)

PA 22-48 established the Opioid Settlement Fund as a separate non-lapsing fund administered by a 37-member Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee with assistance from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. The fund must contain moneys the state gets from opioid-related judgements, consent decrees, and settlements and can only be used following their provisions, as confirmed by the attorney general and after the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee's and the Office of Policy and Management secretary's approval.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/02/2023)