
SENATE BILL 5195

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Lias, Muzzall, Das, Dhingra, Nguyen, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 01/13/21. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to prescribing opioid overdose reversal
2 medication; adding a new section to chapter 69.41 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington has
6 made great strides in recent years to address the opioid crisis in
7 our state. However, there continues to be too many deaths from opioid
8 overdose in communities across the state. The use of opioid
9 antagonists such as naloxone reverses the effects of opioids and can
10 be lifesaving when an opioid overdose occurs.

11 The legislature intends to provide naloxone prescriptions to
12 persons who present in an emergency department with an opioid
13 overdose, along with a referral to services from a substance use
14 disorder peer specialist. The legislature intends that this change
15 will increase the number of opioid prescribed patients who have
16 access to a lifesaving overdose intervention in the event of an
17 emergency, with the goal of reducing the likelihood that an opioid
18 overdose event for a given patient may lead to fatality or long-term
19 adverse health outcomes and the likelihood of patients and their
20 families will face long-term financial and emotional burdens due to
21 an opioid overdose event.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 69.41
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) A practitioner shall provide a current prescription or
4 confirm the patient has a current prescription for an opioid overdose
5 reversal medication when the patient presents in an emergency
6 department with an opioid overdose or is referred for involuntary
7 treatment under chapter 71.05 RCW and has had a recent opioid
8 overdose.

9 (2) A practitioner who provides a prescription under subsection
10 (1) of this section shall refer the patient to the services of a
11 substance use disorder peer specialist.

12 (3) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
13 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

14 (a) "Opioid overdose reversal medication" means any drug used to
15 reverse an opioid overdose that binds to opioid receptors and blocks
16 or inhibits the effects of opioids acting on those receptors.

17 (b) "Practitioner" has the meaning provided in RCW 69.50.101.

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