

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5204

As of February 5, 2025

Title: An act relating to studying outcomes of ibogaine-assisted therapy to treat adults with opioid use disorder.

Brief Description: Concerning ibogaine-assisted therapy.

Sponsors: Senators Salomon, Trudeau and Nobles.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 2/06/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates a three-year study at the University of Washington to determine the effectiveness of ibogaine-assisted therapy compared to treatment-as-usual for adults diagnosed with opioid use disorder.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Greg Attanasio (786-7410)

Background: Ibogaine is a naturally occurring psychoactive substance found in the root bark of the *Tabernanthe iboga* plant, native to West Africa. It is traditionally used in spiritual ceremonies by the Bwiti people of Gabon. Ibogaine, like many other psychoactive drugs, is listed as a Schedule I controlled substance under the state and federal Uniform Controlled Substances Acts, the highest level of drug prohibition. Despite this status, ibogaine has been the subject of a number of studies investigating its effectiveness as a treatment for conditions such as substance use disorders, depression, post traumatic stress, and traumatic brain injury.

\$250,000 was provided in the 2024 supplemental budget for an initial study of ibogaine-assisted therapy to the University of Washington Center for Novel Therapeutics in

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Addiction Psychiatry (NTAP). NTAP describes its mission as to create powerful new ways of treating people struggling with alcohol, opioid, tobacco, and other addictions by combining psychedelic compounds with evidence-based behavioral interventions.

Summary of Bill: The University of Washington must conduct a prospective, randomized cohort study over a three-year period to determine the extent to which ibogaine-assisted therapy presents advantages over treatment as usual for adults diagnosed with an opioid use disorder, consisting of medication-assisted treatment and psychotherapy. The study must be conducted at a licensed clinic in Mexico, followed by structured therapeutic support.

The study must measure specified outcomes and aim to pave the way for larger trials and development of innovative treatments for individuals who are unresponsive to current therapies for opioid use disorder, to create new, life-saving options for this challenging population.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.