

ASSEMBLY, No. 3512

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ROY FREIMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

District 2 (Atlantic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHS to establish public awareness campaign concerning civil and criminal immunity provided under P.L.2013, c.46.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning overdose prevention and supplementing Title
2 24 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. a. The Department of Human Services shall establish a
8 public awareness campaign to educate emergency medical
9 responders, health care practitioners, prescribers, professionals, the
10 general public, and school employees on the civil and criminal
11 immunity provisions provided under the “Overdose Prevention
12 Act,” P.L.2013, c.46 (C.24:6J-1 et al.) regarding the administration
13 of an opioid antidote.

14 b. The Department of Human Services shall develop and
15 distribute appropriate informational materials for the purposes of
16 the public awareness campaign. Materials provided under the
17 public awareness campaign shall be disseminated in a variety of
18 languages if feasible.

19 c. As necessary, the Department of Human Services shall
20 partner with community-based initiatives, training programs, and
21 other similar entities to further the purposes of the public awareness
22 campaign.

23 d. As used in this act:

24 "Emergency medical responder" means a person, other than a
25 health care practitioner, who is employed on a paid or volunteer
26 basis in the area of emergency response, including, but not limited
27 to, an emergency medical technician, a mobile intensive care
28 paramedic, or a fire fighter, acting in that person's professional
29 capacity.

30 "Health care practitioner" means a prescriber, pharmacist, or
31 other individual whose professional practice is regulated pursuant to
32 Title 45 of the Revised Statutes, and who, in accordance with the
33 practitioner's scope of professional practice, prescribes, or dispenses
34 an opioid antidote.

35 "Opioid antidote" means any drug, regardless of dosage amount
36 or method of administration, which has been approved by the
37 United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the
38 treatment of an opioid overdose. "Opioid antidote includes, but is
39 not limited to, naloxone hydrochloride, in any dosage amount,
40 which is administered through nasal spray or any other FDA-
41 approved means or methods.

42 "Prescriber" means a health care practitioner authorized by law
43 to prescribe medications who, acting within the practitioner's scope
44 of professional practice, prescribes an opioid antidote. "Prescriber"
45 includes, but is not limited to, a physician, physician assistant, or
46 advanced practice nurse.

47 "Professional" means a person, other than a health care
48 practitioner, who is employed on a paid basis or is engaged on a

1 volunteer basis in the areas of substance abuse treatment or therapy,
2 criminal justice, or a related area, and who, acting in that person's
3 professional or volunteer capacity, obtains an opioid antidote from a
4 health care practitioner for the purposes of dispensing or
5 administering that antidote to other parties in the course of business
6 or volunteer activities. "Professional" includes, but is not limited
7 to, a sterile syringe access program employee, or a law enforcement
8 official.

9
10 2. The Commissioner of Health shall adopt rules and
11 regulations, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
12 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to implement the provisions
13 of this act and effectuate its purposes.

14
15 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
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18 STATEMENT
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20 This bill requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to
21 establish a public awareness campaign concerning the civil and
22 criminal immunity provisions of the "Overdose Prevention Act,"
23 P.L.2013, c.46 (C.24:6J-1 et al.).

24 Under the bill, the DHS is to establish a public awareness
25 campaign to educate emergency medical responders, health care
26 practitioners, prescribers, professionals, the general public, and
27 school employees on the civil and criminal immunity provisions
28 provided under the Overdose Prevention Act regarding the
29 administration of an opioid antidote. The DHS is to develop and
30 distribute appropriate informational materials for the purposes of
31 the public awareness campaign. Materials provided under the
32 public awareness campaign are to be disseminated in a variety of
33 languages if feasible. As necessary, the DHS is to partner with
34 community-based initiatives, training programs, and other similar
35 entities to further the purposes of the public awareness campaign.