

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 25

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Urges FDA to make naloxone available over the counter.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the U.S. Food and Drug
2 Administration to make naloxone available over the counter.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, According to the Office of the State Medical Examiner,
5 drug-related deaths in New Jersey have increased from 1,026 deaths
6 in 2011 to 1,294 deaths in 2012; and
7 **WHEREAS**, The Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
8 recently reported that in recent years, New Jersey has experienced a
9 dramatic surge in heroin and opiate abuse, particularly among
10 persons aged 18-25; and
11 **WHEREAS**, On May 2, 2013, Governor Christie signed into law the
12 “Overdose Prevention Act,” which provides protection in the form
13 of immunity from arrest, prosecution, and conviction for a use or
14 simple possession charge when a person, in good faith, seeks
15 medical assistance for himself or another person who is
16 experiencing a drug overdose; and
17 **WHEREAS**, The Governor also recently issued a waiver to more than
18 28,000 certified EMTs to allow them to administer the drug
19 naloxone to drug overdose patients in emergency situations
20 Statewide; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Naloxone, an injectable opiate antagonist, can immediately
22 reverse an opiate overdose and prevent overdose death; and
23 **WHEREAS**, Naloxone cannot be used to get high and is not addictive;
24 and
25 **WHEREAS**, Research studies have found that making naloxone more
26 widely available does not encourage people to use opiates more
27 freely; and
28 **WHEREAS**, Overdose deaths can be prevented by making naloxone
29 more readily available to those at risk of an opioid overdose, and to
30 their families and peers; and
31 **WHEREAS**, Naloxone is regulated by the federal Food and Drug
32 Administration (FDA), who held a hearing in April 2012 to
33 consider proposals to make it available over the counter without a
34 prescription; and
35 **WHEREAS**, The crisis of opiate abuse in this State and nationwide has
36 only worsened since the FDA first considered making naloxone
37 available over the counter two years ago; now, therefore,
38
39 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*
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41 1. This House urges the Food and Drug Administration to
42 assert its authority to make naloxone available over the counter
43 without a prescription, and to require the inclusion of a warning
44 label providing the 24-hour toll-free number for the Substance
45 Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for any
46 emergency situations that may arise.

1 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
2 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the
3 Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and to
4 each member of Congress elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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9 This Senate Resolution urges the U.S. Food and Drug
10 Administration to assert its authority to make the drug naloxone
11 available over the counter without a prescription, and to require the
12 inclusion of a warning label providing the 24-hour toll-free number
13 for the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
14 Administration for any emergency situations that may arise.
15 Naloxone is an injectable opiate antagonist, which can immediately
16 reverse an opiate overdose and prevent overdose death.