

ASSEMBLY, No. 4381

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle, Assemblymen Verrelli, DeAngelo and Benson

SYNOPSIS

Requires public high school students to receive instruction concerning opioid abuse and opioid abuse prevention.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/18/2018)

1 AN ACT concerning instructional programs in public schools on
2 opioid abuse and supplementing P.L.1987, c.389 (C.18A:40A-1
3 et seq.).

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

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8 1. a. The instructional programs required under section 1 of
9 P.L.1987, c.389 (C.18A:40A-1) shall include for students in grades
10 nine through 12, instruction concerning the use and misuse of
11 opioid drugs, the dangers of opioid abuse, the connection between
12 prescription opioid abuse and addiction to other drugs such as
13 heroin, and opioid abuse prevention. The instruction also shall
14 include information on providing appropriate assistance to an
15 overdose victim, including recognizing the signs of an opioid
16 overdose and the importance of calling 911 for assistance.

17 b. (1) A school district may, in its discretion, establish a
18 program for students in grade 12 that provides training in how to
19 administer an opioid antidote, such as naloxone hydrochloride, to an
20 overdose victim in an emergency.

21 (2) A student shall be excused from a training program
22 established under paragraph (1) of this subsection upon the written
23 request of the student's parent or guardian. No penalties shall result
24 from a student's non-participation in the program.

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26 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
27 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

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30 STATEMENT

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32 Current law, P.L.1987, c.389 (C.18A:40A-1 et seq.), requires
33 public schools to provide age-appropriate instructional programs on
34 drugs, alcohol, anabolic steroids, tobacco, and controlled dangerous
35 substances in each grade from kindergarten through 12. This bill
36 would require that the instructional programs for grades nine
37 through 12 include instruction concerning the use and misuse of
38 opioid drugs, the dangers of opioid abuse, the connection between
39 prescription opioid abuse and addiction to other drugs such as
40 heroin, and opioid abuse prevention. Under the bill, the instruction
41 will also include information on providing appropriate assistance to
42 an overdose victim, including recognizing the signs of an opioid
43 overdose and the importance of calling 911 for assistance.

44 In addition, the bill permits school districts to establish a
45 program for students in grade 12 that provides training in how to
46 administer an opioid antidote, such as naloxone hydrochloride, to an
47 overdose victim in an emergency. The bill provides that a student

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- 1 will be excused from participation in the training program upon the
- 2 written request of the student's parent or guardian, and no penalties
- 3 will result from a student's non-participation.