

**SENATE, No. 2369**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**218th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED APRIL 5, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator BOB ANDRZEJCZAK**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Senator JEFF VAN DREW**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires handlers of dogs used in law enforcement be provided opioid antidote.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/29/2019)**

1 AN ACT concerning dogs owned or used by law enforcement and  
2 supplementing Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 53  
3 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. As used in this section:

9 "Opioid antidote" means naloxone hydrochloride, or any other  
10 similarly acting drug approved by the United States Food and Drug  
11 Administration for the treatment of an opioid overdose.

12 b. The superintendent shall make available a one-dose supply  
13 of an opioid antidote, as appropriate, to each handler of a dog  
14 owned or used by the Division of the State Police while the dog is  
15 under the supervision of the division.

16 c. The Attorney General may promulgate guidelines or  
17 directives to implement and enforce the provisions of this section.

18  
19 2. a. As used in this section:

20 "Opioid antidote" means naloxone hydrochloride, or any other  
21 similarly acting drug approved by the United States Food and Drug  
22 Administration for the treatment of an opioid overdose.

23 b. The chief law enforcement officer of a county or municipal  
24 police department shall make available a one-dose supply of an  
25 opioid antidote, as appropriate, to each handler of a dog owned or  
26 used by the law enforcement agency while the dog is under the  
27 supervision of the county or municipal police department.

28 c. The Attorney General may promulgate guidelines or  
29 directives to implement and enforce the provisions of this section.

30  
31 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month  
32 next following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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37 This bill requires that an opioid antidote be made available to  
38 each handler of a dog owned or used by law enforcement while the  
39 dog is under the supervision of State, county, or local law  
40 enforcement.

41 The bill authorizes the Attorney General to promulgate  
42 guidelines or directives regarding the issuance of the appropriate  
43 opioid antidote to handlers of law enforcement dogs.

44 In 2016, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration  
45 published a nationwide warning to law enforcement about the  
46 dangers of fentanyl, a narcotic, for officers and dogs. The risk of  
47 inhalation is especially high for dogs, because they use their noses  
48 for detection, no matter what the dog is specifically trained to locate

1 (narcotics, explosives, electronics, missing persons, etc.). Drugs  
2 may also be absorbed through the pads of the dog's feet.

3 After several almost fatal cases related to dogs used in law  
4 enforcement and their work detecting opioids, law enforcement  
5 officers nationwide have begun to carry the opioid antidote  
6 naloxone, commonly known as Narcan, for these dogs. Narcan  
7 blocks the effects of opioids and reverses overdoses with few side  
8 effects. It has long been used by medical personnel and first  
9 responders and more recently has been distributed to people with  
10 addictions and their families.

11 This bill is necessary because, aside from the potential loss of a  
12 crime detector and partner, a recent news report noted the cost for a  
13 single, fully-trained handler-dog team can be upward of \$30,000.  
14 Narcan, however, costs under \$50 per dose, making prevention a  
15 cost effective and lifesaving solution.

16 The Massachusetts State Police began carrying naloxone for their  
17 dogs in 2016 and law enforcement in Hartford, Connecticut,  
18 followed their lead in January 2017. Colorado recently announced  
19 an opioid antidote initiative to protect dogs used in law  
20 enforcement.