

**E2SHB 1956** - S COMM AMD  
By Committee on Ways & Means

**ADOPTED 02/29/2024**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that overdoses  
4 and overdose deaths, particularly from synthetic opioids, have  
5 increased in recent years. According to the federal centers for  
6 disease control and prevention, among persons aged 14 through 18,  
7 overdose deaths increased 94 percent from 2019 to 2020 and 20 percent  
8 from 2020 to 2021. In 2021, over 75 percent of all drug overdose  
9 deaths involved opioids, with synthetic opioids, including fentanyl,  
10 accounting for nearly 88 percent of those deaths. Between 2022 and  
11 2023, Washington saw the largest increase in overdose deaths of any  
12 state at 40 percent.

13 (2) The legislature recognizes that fatal overdose risk among  
14 adolescents is increasing due to widespread availability of illicitly  
15 manufactured fentanyl, proliferation of counterfeit pills resembling  
16 prescription drugs but containing illicit drugs, and ease of  
17 purchasing pills through social media. The United States drug  
18 enforcement administration states that there is significant risk that  
19 illegal drugs have been intentionally contaminated with fentanyl. As  
20 a result, many young people may ingest a lethal dose without knowing  
21 that they are consuming fentanyl.

22 (3) The legislature acknowledges that the level of public health  
23 crisis created by use of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids  
24 requires an immediate, substantial, and coordinated effort by  
25 national, state, and local public health, social service, and  
26 educational agencies working together.

27 (4) The legislature also acknowledges that the popularity of  
28 drugs grows and wanes forming distinct drug epidemics, similar to  
29 disease epidemics. As the popularity and availability of synthetic  
30 opioids wanes, it is likely that some other substance will pose the  
31 next acute public health crisis.

1 (5) Therefore, in order to combat the current public health  
2 crisis of abuse of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, and to be  
3 prepared to address the next drug epidemic before it reaches crisis  
4 level, the legislature intends to direct the state department of  
5 health to deploy a statewide substance use prevention and awareness  
6 campaign that evolves to address the substance or substances with the  
7 greatest impact on the health of Washington youth and their families,  
8 diverse regions and communities, and the broader public. The  
9 legislature also intends for the public education system to actively  
10 incorporate campaign messages and materials in classrooms, as well as  
11 in family and community communications.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70  
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) The department shall develop, implement, and maintain a  
15 statewide drug overdose prevention and awareness campaign to address  
16 the drug overdose epidemic.

17 (2) (a) The campaign must educate the public about the dangers of  
18 methamphetamines and opioids, including fentanyl, and the harms  
19 caused by drug use. The campaign must include outreach to both youth  
20 and adults aimed at preventing substance use and overdose deaths.

21 (b) The department, in consultation with the health care  
22 authority, may also include messaging focused on substance use  
23 disorder and overdose death prevention, resources for addiction  
24 treatment and services, and information on immunity for people who  
25 seek medical assistance in a drug overdose situation pursuant to RCW  
26 69.50.315.

27 (3) The 2024 and 2025 campaigns must focus on increasing the  
28 awareness of the dangers of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids,  
29 including the high possibility that other drugs are contaminated with  
30 synthetic opioids and that even trace amounts of synthetic opioids  
31 can be lethal.

32 (4) Beginning June 30, 2025, and each year thereafter, the  
33 department must submit a report to the appropriate committees of the  
34 legislature on the content and distribution of the statewide drug  
35 overdose prevention and awareness campaign. The report must include a  
36 summary of the messages distributed during the campaign, the mediums  
37 through which the campaign was operated, and data on how many  
38 individuals received information through the campaign. The department  
39 must identify measurable benchmarks to determine the effectiveness of

1 the campaign and recommend whether the campaign should continue and  
2 if any changes should be made to the campaign. The report must be  
3 submitted in compliance with RCW 43.01.036.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
7 collaborate with the department of health, the health care authority,  
8 other state agencies, and educational service districts to develop  
9 age-appropriate substance use prevention and awareness materials for  
10 school and classroom uses. These materials must be periodically  
11 updated to align with substance use prevention and awareness  
12 campaigns implemented by the department of health and the health care  
13 authority.

14 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
15 actively distribute the materials developed under subsection (1) of  
16 this section to school districts, public schools, educational service  
17 districts, and community-based organizations that provide extended  
18 learning opportunities, and strongly encourage the incorporation of  
19 age-appropriate materials in classrooms, as well as in family and  
20 community communications.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The office of the superintendent of  
22 public instruction shall collaborate with the department of health,  
23 the health care authority, other state agencies, and educational  
24 service districts to develop school and classroom materials on the  
25 lethality of fentanyl and other opioids in coordination with the  
26 public health campaign created in section 2 of this act. The office  
27 of the superintendent of public instruction must make these materials  
28 available to school districts and public schools.

29 (2) By December 1, 2025, the office of the superintendent of  
30 public instruction shall adjust the state health and physical  
31 education learning standards for middle and high school students to  
32 add opioids to the list of drugs included in drug-related education  
33 and update the school and classroom materials developed under  
34 subsection (1) of this section to reflect the adjusted standards  
35 required by this subsection (2). The office of the superintendent of  
36 public instruction must make these materials available to school  
37 districts and public schools.

38 (3) This section expires July 1, 2026.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    This act is necessary for the immediate  
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
3 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
4 effect immediately.

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    If specific funding for the purposes of  
6 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
7 provided by June 30, 2024, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
8 act is null and void.

9        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 7.**    This act may be known and cited as the  
10 Lucas Petty act."

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11        On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "education;" strike the  
12 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new section to chapter  
13 43.70 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating new  
14 sections; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency."

EFFECT: (1) Removes the expiration date for the statewide drug  
overdose prevention and awareness campaign.  
(2) Directs the Department of Health to identify measurable  
benchmarks to determine the effectiveness of the campaign and  
recommend whether the campaign should continue and if any changes  
should be made to the campaign.

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