

SENATE BILL REPORT

2SHB 2112

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Higher Education & Workforce Development, February 21, 2024

Title: An act relating to opioid and fentanyl prevention education and awareness at institutions of higher education.

Brief Description: Concerning opioid and fentanyl prevention education and awareness at institutions of higher education.

Sponsors: House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Nance, Leavitt, Simmons, Reed, Ormsby, Callan, Rule, Orwall, Paul, Timmons, Lekanoff, Riccelli, Wylie, Reeves, Shavers, Pollet, Kloba and Davis).

Brief History: Passed House: 2/8/24, 94-3.

Committee Activity: Higher Education & Workforce Development: 2/14/24, 2/21/24 [DP-WM].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires institutions of higher education to provide opioid and fentanyl prevention education to all students.
- Specifies that naloxone and fentanyl test strips must be available at multiple locations on campus.
- Requires training and education for staff working in residence halls on the use of naloxone.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Majority Report: Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Nobles, Chair; Hansen, Vice Chair; Holy, Ranking Member; Hawkins and Randall.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Staff: Alicia Kinne-Clawson (786-7407)

Background: Opioids are a class of drugs that include heroine, fentanyl, oxycodone, hydrocodone, and morphine. Fentanyl is a potent synthetic opioid. Pharmaceutical fentanyl is approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use as an analgesic and anesthetic.

Fentanyl can also be illegally made and distributed. It can be made in both a liquid and powder formula and can be mixed with other drugs. Fentanyl is not detectable through sight, taste, smell, or touch. However, fentanyl can be detected through the use of fentanyl test strips, which are small strips of paper that can detect fentanyl in different kind of drugs when dissolved in water.

Naloxone is a medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose. It works by binding to opioid receptors in the body and can reverse and block the effects of opioids.

Washington's Good Samaritan Law limits liability for a person who renders emergency care at the scene of an emergency or who participates in transporting an injured person from the scene, without compensation or the expectation of compensation. The law excludes persons who render such care during the course of regular employment and who receive compensation or expect to receive compensation for such care.

Summary of Bill: Each public and private institution of higher education must provide opioid and fentanyl prevention education and awareness information to all students. Education may be offered in person or online and must include information about Washington's Good Samaritan Law.

Naloxone and fentanyl strips must be made available to students on campus in various accessible locations.

Institutions must provide staff working in residence halls training and education on administering naloxone.

For the purpose of assisting a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose, an institution may obtain and maintain opioid overdose reversal medication through a standing order prescribed and dispensed in accordance with an existing standing order.

Appropriation: The bill contains a null and void clause requiring specific funding be provided in an omnibus appropriation act.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: We face a crisis with fentanyl and opiates. Youth are some of our hardest hit populations. Too often young people are afraid to call for help for fear of getting in trouble and too often they don't have the tools to save lives. Naloxone and fentanyl test strips are lifesaving interventions. This bill is an important step forward and will save lives. Well-crafted education and awareness when coupled with lifesaving interventions like naloxone and test strips will save lives. Tacoma Community College is a leader among institutions in stocking Naloxone in every building. This bill will bring this lifesaving intervention to every campus. We are in support of this bill and ask that it get funded and included in the budget. This is a proactive measure in tackling this crisis before our communities. It is imperative that we educate our students on the dangers of opioids.

OTHER: We are aligned with the intent of this bill but are wary of the costs. We hope the final bill will include a review or sunset of this bill. We ask that recurring grant funds we provided to support the not-for-profit colleges in implementing this and training staff.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Greg Nance, Prime Sponsor; Amanda Kost, UW Faculty; Melissa Beard, Council of Presidents; Isela Bonilla, Associated Students of WSU Vancouver ; Stella Seth, Legislative Liaison, Associated Students, Western Washington University; Scott Waller, Washington Association for Substance misuse and Violence Prevention (WASAVP); Mollie Kuwahara, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

OTHER: Terri Standish-Kuon, Ph.D., Independent Colleges of Washington.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.