
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5906

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators L. Wilson, Dozier, Gildon, Holy, Mullet, Torres, Warnick, and J. Wilson

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1 AN ACT Relating to implementing a statewide drug overdose
2 prevention and education campaign; adding a new section to chapter
3 43.70 RCW; creating a new section; providing an effective date; and
4 providing an expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that drug overdose
7 deaths have increased significantly and rose to over 2,700 deaths in
8 the year 2022. Of those deaths, 74 percent involved opioids and 68
9 percent involved synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. Furthermore, 50
10 percent involved psychostimulants such as methamphetamine. The
11 legislature intends to save lives by increasing the public awareness
12 of the dangers caused by drug addiction and the harms caused by drug
13 use through the creation of a statewide drug overdose prevention and
14 education campaign.

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

17 (1) Subject to availability of amounts appropriated for this
18 specific purpose, the department shall develop, implement, and
19 maintain an ongoing statewide drug overdose prevention and education
20 campaign to address the drug overdose epidemic.

1 (2) The drug overdose prevention and education campaign shall
2 provide information to the general public about the dangers of
3 methamphetamines and opioids, including fentanyl, and the harms
4 caused by drug use. The campaign may also include messaging focused
5 on drug addiction and overdose death prevention, resources for
6 addiction treatment and services, and information on immunity for
7 people who seek medical assistance in a drug overdose situation
8 pursuant to RCW 69.50.315. The campaign must include outreach to both
9 youth and adults aimed at preventing addiction and overdose deaths.

10 (3) Beginning June 30, 2025, and each year thereafter, the
11 department must submit a report to the appropriate committees of the
12 legislature on the content and distribution of the statewide drug
13 overdose prevention and education campaign. The report must include a
14 summary of the messages distributed during the campaign, the mediums
15 through which the campaign was operated, and data on how many
16 individuals received information through the campaign.

17 (4) The department shall conduct a feasibility study regarding
18 the creation of a drug overdose prevention hotline. By December 31,
19 2025, the department shall provide a report detailing the results of
20 the feasibility study and recommendations to the appropriate
21 committees of the legislature.

22 (5) This section expires July 1, 2029.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2024.

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