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**SENATE BILL 5906**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

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

Prefiled 12/26/23. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

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) This section expires July 1, 2029.

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

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