
SENATE BILL 5204

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Salomon and Trudeau

Prefiled 01/09/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying outcomes of ibogaine-assisted therapy
2 to treat adults with opioid use disorder; and adding new sections to
3 chapter 28B.20 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.20
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The legislature finds that:

8 (1) In the context of modern medicine, ibogaine has shown
9 promising potential as a treatment for opioid use disorder. Ibogaine
10 is a naturally occurring psychoactive substance found in the root
11 bark of the Tabernanthe iboga plant, native to West Africa. It has
12 been traditionally used in spiritual ceremonies by the Bwiti people
13 of Gabon. Compared to traditional opioid replacement therapies,
14 ibogaine appears to have the unique ability to rapidly reduce
15 withdrawal symptoms and cravings associated with opioid addiction,
16 often after just a single dose. This effect is thought to be due to
17 ibogaine's complex pharmacological profile, which includes
18 interactions with multiple neurotransmitter systems.

19 (2) Opioid use disorder remains a significant public health
20 crisis with high rates of morbidity, mortality, and relapse. Standard
21 treatments, including methadone, buprenorphine, and psychosocial

1 therapies, often yield limited long-term success with high rates of
2 relapse.

3 (3) Despite its potential, ibogaine remains largely understudied
4 due to its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance in the
5 United States, which significantly restricts research opportunities.
6 However, the ongoing opioid crisis underscores the urgent need for
7 innovative treatments. Studying ibogaine may lead to the development
8 of safer, more effective therapies for opioid use disorder. The state
9 of Washington has already invested funds to examine cardiac safety
10 concerns relating to ibogaine, finding that when given in a medical
11 context, there is very little risk. Ibogaine may represent a powerful
12 life-saving tool for helping those struggling with opioid use
13 disorder.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.20
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The University of Washington must conduct a prospective,
17 randomized cohort study over a three-year period to determine the
18 extent to which ibogaine-assisted therapy conducted through a
19 licensed clinic in Mexico, followed by structured therapeutic
20 support, presents advantages over treatment as usual for adults
21 diagnosed with opioid use disorder compared to the current standard
22 United States interventions of medication-assisted treatment and
23 psychotherapy. The study must measure outcomes including, but not
24 limited to, treatment engagement, reduction in opioid use, mortality,
25 functional status, craving, motivation to change, and self-efficacy,
26 using toxicology, standard scales, and other creditable research
27 techniques.

28 (2) By addressing this critical gap in opioid use disorder
29 treatment research, the study shall aim to pave the way for larger
30 trials and development of innovative treatments for individuals
31 unresponsive to current therapies, creating new, effective, life-
32 saving options for this challenging population.

--- END ---