

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 24 (Delegates Szeliga and Cassilly)
Health and Government Operations

Public Health - Overdose Response Program - Educational Training Program Requirement

This bill modifies the educational training required in an Overdose Response Program overseen by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). Training has to encompass the requirement to immediately contact medical services after the administration of naloxone.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: DHMH can revise the Overdose Response Program educational training curriculum with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill's requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources. Local health departments that provide educational training under the program must follow DHMH's revised curriculum.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 299 of 2013 established the Overdose Response Program within DHMH to authorize certain individuals (through the issuance of a certificate) to administer naloxone to an individual experiencing, or believed to be experiencing, opioid overdose to help prevent a fatality when medical services are not immediately available. Chapter 356 of 2015 expanded the program to authorize standing orders for naloxone and provided additional legal protections for prescribers and administrators of naloxone.

To qualify for a certificate to administer naloxone, an individual must (1) be 18 or older; (2) have, or reasonably expect to have, the ability to assist an individual who is experiencing an opioid overdose; and (3) successfully complete an educational training program offered by a private or public entity authorized by DHMH.

An educational training program must be conducted by a licensed physician, an advanced practice nurse, a pharmacist, or an employee or volunteer of a private or public entity who is supervised in accordance with a specified written agreement. Educational training must include (1) the recognition of opioid overdose symptoms; (2) the proper administration of naloxone; (3) the importance of contacting emergency medical services; (4) the care of an individual after the administration of naloxone; and (5) any other topics required by DHMH.

The bill alters the requirement to provide training on the importance of contacting emergency medical services to instead require that medical services be contacted immediately after the administration of naloxone.

Background: DHMH launched the Overdose Response Program in March 2014. As of January 15, 2016, 15,346 individuals have received training under the program. Additionally, there have been 16,975 dispensed doses of naloxone and 293 reported naloxone administrations. Naloxone (also known as Narcan[®]) is an opioid antagonist long used in emergency medicine to rapidly reverse opioid-related sedation and respiratory depression.

DHMH requires authorized educational training providers under the program to follow a core curriculum. The core curriculum includes the following information: background information on opioids; naloxone storage and disposal; a certificate holder's general responsibilities; information on the Good Samaritan Law; and the importance of calling the Maryland Poison Center to report the use of naloxone after administration. The curriculum also instructs trainees to call 9-1-1 *before* administering naloxone.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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