

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2016 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4221

FISCAL
NOTE

BY DELEGATES STANSBURY, HOUSEHOLDER, ELLINGTON,
ROHRBACH, WELD, MILLER, HANSHAW, B. WHITE,
WESTFALL, CAMPBELL AND SOBONYA

[Introduced January 21, 2016; referred to the Select
Committee on Prevention and Treatment of
Substance Abuse then the committee on the
Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §16-46-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to the administration of an opioid antagonist to a person believed to be suffering from a
3 opioid-related overdose.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That §16-46-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and
2 reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 46. ACCESS TO OPIOID ANTAGONISTS ACT.

**§16-46-3. Licensed health care providers may prescribe opioid antagonists to initial
responders and certain individuals; required educational materials; limited liability.**

1 (a) All licensed health care providers in the course of their professional practice may offer
2 to initial responders a prescription for opioid antagonists, including a standing order, to be used
3 during the course of their professional duties as initial responders.

4 (b) All licensed health care providers in the course of their professional practice may offer
5 to a person considered by the licensed health care provider to be at risk of experiencing an opiate-
6 related overdose, or to a relative, friend, caregiver or person in a position to assist a person at
7 risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose, a prescription for an opioid antagonist.

8 (c) All licensed health care providers who prescribe an opioid antagonist under this section
9 shall provide educational materials to any person or entity receiving such a prescription on opiate-
10 related overdose prevention and treatment programs, as well as materials on administering the
11 prescribed opioid antagonist.

12 (d) Any person who possesses an opioid antagonist and administers it to a person whom
13 they believe to be suffering from an opioid-related overdose and who is acting in good faith is not,
14 as a result of his or her actions or omissions, subject to criminal prosecution arising from the
15 possession of an opioid antagonist or subject to any civil liability with respect to the administration
16 of or failure to administer the opioid antagonist unless the act or failure to act was the result of
17 gross negligence or willful misconduct.

18 (e) Any person who administers an opioid antagonist to a person whom they believe to be
19 suffering from an opioid-related overdose is required to seek additional medical treatment at a
20 medical facility for that person immediately following the administration of the opioid antagonist to
21 avoid further complications as a result of suspected opioid-related overdose.

22 (f) Any person who administers an opioid antagonist to a person whom they believe to be
23 suffering from an opioid related overdose is required to forthwith initiate commitment proceedings
24 pursuant to section two, article five, chapter twenty-seven of this code. In the proceedings
25 initiated, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the person believed to have overdosed on
26 an opioid is addicted and a danger to self or others. A person who fails to comply with the
27 provisions of this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be
28 fined not more than \$1,000 or confined in jail not more than one year, or both fined and confined.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require persons who administer an opioid antagonist drug to someone believed to have overdosed on an opiate to initiate proceedings for involuntary hospitalization commitment. The bill provides rebuttable presumption that the person to whom the antagonist drug was administered is an addict and a danger to self or others. Failure to comply with the provisions is a misdemeanor.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.