

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4655

**FISCAL
NOTE**

By Delegates Stephens, Pritt, Willis, Campbell, and

Dittman

[Introduced January 21, 2026; referred to the
Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-34-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, relating to expanding
2 Laken's Law to include grades 3 to 12 for fentanyl, heroin, and opioids awareness,
3 prevention, and abuse instruction.`

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 34. LAKEN'S LAW

§18-34-1. Laken's Law.

1 (a) The Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Education Act or "Laken's Law" would help
2 prevent overdose deaths in teens and young adults due to fentanyl and fentanyl components. This
3 shall be accomplished through education of students in grades ~~6-12~~ 3-12 in all public schools and
4 be mandated annually using the following methods:

5 (1) Students ~~will~~ shall be taught about fentanyl, heroin, and opioids awareness, prevention,
6 and abuse;

7 (2) Students ~~will~~ shall be instructed in the life-saving use of FDA-approved opioid reversal
8 agents;

9 (3) Students ~~will~~ shall be instructed on the prevention of the abuse of and addiction to
10 fentanyl;

11 (4) Students ~~will~~ shall be instructed on available state and community resources and
12 organizations that work to prevent and reduce youth substance use; and

13 (5) Students ~~will~~ shall receive health education covering the issues of substance abuse
14 and youth substance abuse in particular.

15 (b) This mandatory instruction will begin in the 2024-2025 school year.

16 (c) The mandatory instructions for the expanded instruction including grades 3-5 shall
17 begin in the 2026-2027 school year.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to expand "Laken's Law" or the instruction about fentanyl, heroin, and opioids awareness, prevention to grades 3-12.

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