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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair  
2023 - 2024 Regular Session

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### **AB 1233 (Waldron) - Substance abuse: Naloxone Distribution Project: tribal governments**

**Version:** March 23, 2023  
**Urgency:** No  
**Hearing Date:** June 26, 2023

**Policy Vote:** HEALTH 12 - 0  
**Mandate:** No  
**Consultant:** Agnes Lee

**Bill Summary:** AB 1233 would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to tribal governments, as specified, regarding the Naloxone Distribution Project.

**Fiscal Impact:** DHCS estimates costs to perform the outreach and reporting activities to be \$314,000 in 2024-25 and \$296,000 in 2025-26 and ongoing (General Fund and federal funds).

**Background:** According to the U.S. Surgeon General, naloxone is an opioid antagonist that is used to temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, namely slowed or stopped breathing. The California Department of Public Health issued a statewide standing order for naloxone in June 2018. The order allows organizations and entities, including k-12 schools, colleges, and universities, to distribute naloxone to a person who is at risk of experiencing an overdose or an individual in a position to assist an at-risk person. Staff of community organizations and other entities distributing naloxone under the statewide standing order are required to receive training, and are also required to provide training to individuals who receive naloxone from them. Organizations may apply to use the statewide standing order and meet certain terms and conditions.

The Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP), administered by DHCS, aims to reduce opioid overdose deaths through the provision of free naloxone. Entities can apply to DHCS to have naloxone shipped directly to their address. Eligible entities include:

- a) Law enforcement such as police departments, county jails, and probation;
- b) Fire, emergency medical services (EMS), and first responders;
- c) Schools and universities;
- d) County public health and behavioral health departments; and,
- e) Community organizations, such as harm reduction organizations or community opioid coalitions.

**Proposed Law:** Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Require DHCS to conduct outreach to each of the tribal governments in California to advise them of the availability of naloxone or another opioid antagonist through the NDP.
- Require DHCS to provide technical assistance on the application process for the NDP if requested by a tribal government.

- Require DHCS to report to the Legislature and Assembly and Senate Health Committees the results of the outreach efforts annually, beginning on March 31, 2025.
- Sunset the bill on March 31, 2027.

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