
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2023 - 2024 Regular Session

AB 19 (Joe Patterson) - Pupil health: opioid antagonists

Version: June 22, 2023

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: July 10, 2023

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill requires each school that has elected to make a school nurse or trained personnel available to maintain at least two doses units of naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist on its campus.

Fiscal Impact: By requiring schools to maintain at least two doses of naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist on their campuses, this bill could result in ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs in the hundreds of thousands to low millions of dollars each year. This estimate assumes a cost of \$47.50 per dose but could be less to the extent that doses are not used. Opioid reversal medication typically has a shelf life of two to three years. To the extent that the Commission on State Mandates determines the bill's requirements to be a higher level of service, there could be cost pressure on the K-12 Mandate Block Grant.

Background: Existing law permits a school nurse or trained personnel who have volunteered to provide emergency naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist, by nasal spray or by auto-injector, to persons suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from an opioid overdose.

Existing law provides a school no more than two weeks to restock their supply of naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist after use. It also requires an LEA electing to utilize naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist for emergency aid to ensure that each employee who volunteers are provided defense and indemnification for any and all civil liability. This information shall be reduced to writing, provided to the volunteer, and retained in the volunteer's personnel file.

Proposed Law: This bill requires each school that has elected to make a school nurse or trained personnel available to maintain at least two doses units of naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist on its campus.

Related Legislation: SB 234 (Portantino, 2023) would require public school, institutions of higher education, stadiums, concert venues, and amusement parks to maintain unexpired doses of naloxone hydrochloride or any other opioid antagonist on its premises. This bill is pending in the Assembly Health Committee.

SB 472 (Hurtado, 2023) would require each public school to maintain at least two doses of naloxone hydrochloride on its campus. This bill was held on the Suspense File in this Committee.

Staff Comments: SB 114 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, 2023), the education trailer bill, proposes \$3.5 million in ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to county offices of education to distribute opioid antagonists, with the intent that it complement efforts of the Naloxone Distribution Project.

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