

Date of Hearing: April 26, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Chris Holden, Chair
AB 889 (Joe Patterson) – As Introduced February 14, 2023

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 7 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill requires each local education agency (LEA) to provide written notice, as part of an existing annual notification, to inform the parent or guardian of enrolled student about the dangers associated with synthetic drugs, such as fentanyl, and of the possibility that dangerous synthetic drugs can be found in counterfeit pills. In addition, the bill requires each LEA to post this information on its website, if it maintains a website.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs, potentially in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, for LEAs to provide written notifications. California has about six million students. If we assume printing costs of \$0.03 per notification, costs would be \$180,000 annually.
- 2) Minor and absorbable one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs to each LEA to add information to its website.

If the Commission on State Mandates determines the bill's requirements to be a reimbursable state mandate, the state would need to reimburse these costs to LEAs or provide funding through the K-12 Mandate Block Grant.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Background.** Fentanyl is a potent synthetic opioid drug approximately 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Recent cases of fentanyl-related overdoses are linked to illicitly manufactured fentanyl that is distributed through illegal drug markets and sometimes added to counterfeit pills.

This bill requires each LEA to inform students' parents and guardians via written notice and on its website, if it has one, of the dangers of synthetic drugs, such as fentanyl. The notice is to be part of the LEA's "annual notification," a requirement established in current law whereby each LEA must send out various notifications at the beginning of the year to parents and guardians of students. For example, current law requires an LEA's annual notification to include information about investing for college, the availability of state funds to cover Advanced Placement exam fees, the LEA's sexual harassment policy, and various other items.

- 2) **Related Legislation.** AB 802 (Joe Patterson) of this legislative session would require each LEA to provide written notice, as part of an existing annual notification, to a student's parent or guardian of the right to examine the curriculum materials of the class or classes in which their child is enrolled and to post information on this right on the LEA's website, if it maintains a website. The bill is pending on this committee's suspense file.

AB 19 (Joe Patterson) of this legislative session would require each school to maintain at least two doses of naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist. The bill is pending in this committee.

SB 10 (Cortese) of this legislative session would require each LEA to include strategies for the prevention and treatment of an opioid overdose in their school safety plans, and require the California Department of Education to develop training materials on the use of emergency opioid antagonists for school personnel, and safety materials for parents, guardians, and students in conjunction with the California Health and Human Services Agency. The bill is pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 472 (Hurtado) of this legislative session would require each school to maintain at least two doses of naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist. The bill is pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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