



House of Representatives

File No. 694

General Assembly

February Session, 2014

(Reprint of File No. 444)

Substitute House Bill No. 5487
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 28, 2014

***AN ACT PROVIDING IMMUNITY TO A PERSON WHO ADMINISTERS
AN OPIOID ANTAGONIST TO ANOTHER PERSON EXPERIENCING
AN OPIOID-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-714a of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

3 (a) For purposes of this section, "opioid antagonist" means naloxone
4 hydrochloride or any other similarly acting and equally safe drug
5 approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for the
6 treatment of drug overdose.

7 (b) A licensed health care professional who is permitted by law to
8 prescribe an opioid antagonist may, if acting with reasonable care,
9 prescribe, dispense or administer an opioid antagonist to treat or
10 prevent a drug overdose without being liable for damages in a civil
11 action or subject to criminal prosecution for prescribing, dispensing or
12 administering such opioid antagonist or for any subsequent use of
13 such opioid antagonist. [For purposes of this section, "opioid

14 antagonist" means naloxone hydrochloride or any other similarly
15 acting and equally safe drug approved by the federal Food and Drug
16 Administration for the treatment of drug overdose.]

17 (c) Any person, who in good faith believes that another person is
18 experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose may, if acting with
19 reasonable care, administer an opioid antagonist to such other person.
20 Any person, other than a licensed health care professional acting in the
21 ordinary course of such person's employment, who administers an
22 opioid antagonist in accordance with this subsection shall not be liable
23 for damages in a civil action or subject to criminal prosecution with
24 respect to the administration of such opioid antagonist.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2014	17a-714a

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill provides civil and criminal immunity under specific conditions for a person that administers an opioid antagonist and does not result in a fiscal impact.

House "A" expands the immunity provided by the underlying bill and does not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5487 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT PROVIDING IMMUNITY TO A PERSON WHO ADMINISTERS AN OPIOID ANTAGONIST TO ANOTHER PERSON EXPERIENCING AN OPIOID-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes anyone to administer an opioid antagonist (such as Narcan) to a person he or she believes, in good faith, is experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose. The bill gives civil and criminal immunity to such a person who acts with reasonable care in administering the opioid antagonist, unless he or she is a licensed health care professional acting in the ordinary course of employment.

Existing law allows licensed health care practitioners authorized to prescribe an opioid antagonist, if acting with reasonable care, to prescribe, dispense, or administer it to treat or prevent a drug overdose without being civilly or criminally liable for the action or for its subsequent use. Thus, these practitioners can prescribe opioid antagonists to people who are not their patients to assist a person experiencing a drug overdose.

By law, an "opioid antagonist" is naloxone hydrochloride (Narcan) or any other similarly acting and equally safe drug that the Food and Drug Administration has approved for treating a drug overdose.

*House Amendment "A" expands the immunity provided by the original bill (File 444) to cover licensed health care professionals acting outside the course of employment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 35 Nay 0 (03/24/2014)