



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 410**

January Session, 2021

House Bill No. 5597

*House of Representatives, April 13, 2021*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. STEINBERG of the 136th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOIDS.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force  
2 to study protocols used by first responders, emergency medical services  
3 personnel, police officers, hospital personnel and medical examiners  
4 following an opioid overdose death.

5 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

6 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

7 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

8 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
9 Representatives;

10 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

11 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of

12 Representatives;

13 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

14 (7) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's  
15 designee; and

16 (8) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,  
17 or the commissioner's designee.

18 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
19 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
20 of the General Assembly.

21 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
22 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
23 be filled by the appointing authority.

24 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
25 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from  
26 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule  
27 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty  
28 days after the effective date of this section.

29 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
30 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
31 health shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

32 (g) Not later than January 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a report  
33 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees  
34 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
35 health and public safety, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
36 4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that  
37 it submits such report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

38 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) On or before January 1, 2022, the  
39 Commissioner of Public Health shall (1) establish guidelines for the use  
40 of evidence-based, nonpharmaceutical therapies to treat chronic pain,

41 including, but not limited to, chiropractic treatment and physical  
42 therapy, and (2) conduct educational and outreach activities to raise  
43 awareness of such guidelines.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section

**PH**      *Joint Favorable*

*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.*

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), by January 1, 2022, to (1) establish guidelines for the use of evidence-based, non-pharmaceutical therapies to treat chronic pain, including chiropractic treatment and physical therapy, and (2) conduct educational and outreach activities to raise awareness of these guidelines. This provision of the bill is not anticipated to result in costs to DPH, as the agency has the staff expertise to handle these requirements.

The bill establishes a ten-member task force to study protocols used by first responders, emergency medical services personnel, police officers, hospital personnel, and medical examiners following an opioid overdose death.

Not later than January 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the public health and public safety committees. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

This bill has no fiscal impact as PA 17-236 prohibits transportation allowances for task force members.

### **The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5597*****AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOIDS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a 10-member task force to study protocols used by first responders, emergency medical services and hospital personnel, police officers, and medical examiners following an opioid overdose death. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Public Health and Public Safety committees by January 1, 2022. The task force terminates on that date or the date it submits its report, whichever is later.

The bill also requires the DPH commissioner, by January 1, 2022, to (1) establish guidelines for the use of evidence-based, non-pharmaceutical therapies to treat chronic pain, including chiropractic treatment and physical therapy, and (2) conduct educational and outreach activities to raise awareness of these guidelines.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021, except that the task force provision takes effect upon passage.

**TASK FORCE MEMBERS AND MEETINGS**

Under the bill, the task force consists of the emergency services and public protection and public health commissioners, or their designees, and the following appointed members: (1) two each by the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore and (2) one each by the House and Senate majority and minority leaders. Appointing authorities must make their initial appointments within 30 days after the bill's passage and fill any vacancies. Members appointed by legislative leaders may be legislators.

The bill requires the House speaker and Senate president pro

tempore to select the task force’s chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule the task force’s first meeting, which must be held within 60 days after the bill’s passage. The Public Health Committee’s administrative staff must serve as the task force’s administrative staff.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 33    Nay 0    (03/29/2021)