

HCS HB 3113 -- DRUG ABUSE

SPONSOR: Kelley

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs by a vote of 11 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 12 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 3113.

This bill requires the administrator of all "public buildings", as defined in the bill, to maintain a supply of naloxone, inside the building's first aid kit, if any, and in the same location as the building's automated external defibrillator (AED), if any. The building is required to make all reasonable efforts to notify occupants that there is naloxone on the property, where to find it, and to call emergency personnel if naloxone is administered.

The bill designates the month of October of each year as "Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month".

This bill modifies the Drug-Free Schools Program to require the development of education programs about fentanyl use and poisoning for students in grades six through 12.

Prior to January 1, 2028, the bill requires every law enforcement agency in the State to participate in training provided through the POST program's Operation Overdose (OD) Justice Initiative.

This bill requires any drug-related death to be fully investigated by the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction, regardless of whether criminal charges have been filed. Drug-related deaths must be treated by the law enforcement agency in the same manner as a homicide crime scene.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that we are facing an escalating crisis of fentanyl. This drug has a devastating impact on families and youth; it is very lethal and easy to overdose on. Seventy percent of opioid deaths are now from fentanyl, a 300% increase in recent years. Naloxone is a lifesaving medicine that reduces the likelihood of death in an overdose event; it should

be available everywhere. The bill will also promote community discussion and awareness while educating children. Law enforcement training improves response by police. This is a public health crisis that doesn't only affect people with addictions. Many drug-related deaths have gone un- or under-investigated, which causes a lot of grief for families. It is devastating to have a loved one's death slip through the cracks. Good people, children, and the most vulnerable among us have been lost, leading to familial suicides. Education is absolutely key, and there's no such thing as children learning to be safe too young. People often aren't aware that fentanyl is in whatever they are taking that leads to an overdose, so teaching early and often about the dangers of accepting substances from others, even friends, is critical. Too many people are never aware that this is such a problem until they lose a loved one.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Kelley; Crystal Catron; Dayna Blunar; Ken Bromeier; Kimberly Bertch; Sarah Eager; Shannon Thomas; Rion Thomas; Arnie Dienoff; Lillie Compton; Laura Woody, Cedar County & Surrounding Areas Fentanyl Awareness/Poison Prevention; and Charles Carroll.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.