

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Drug and Alcohol Overdose Prevention

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Overview

This bill authorizes certain licensed health care providers to authorize certain non-health care providers to administer drugs for the treatment of alcohol or drug overdose. The bill also creates “Steve’s Law,” in sections 3 and 4, which provides immunity for certain civil and criminal penalties for administering an opiate antagonist and provides that seeking assistance for another may be considered a mitigating factor if prosecuted.

Section

- 1 Basic life support.** Amends § 144E.101, subdivision 6. Adds administration of an opiate antagonist to duties a basic life-support ambulance service medical director may authorize service personnel to perform.
- 2 Administration of opiate antagonists for drug overdose.** Amends § 151.37 by adding subdivision 12. Allows a licensed physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant to authorize an emergency medical responder, police officer, or staff of community-based health disease prevention or social service programs to administer opiate antagonists. Those individuals may only administer the drug if they have received training on signs of overdose and have either a standing order or protocol from the physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse.
- 3 Good Samaritan overdose prevention.** Adds § 604A.04.

Subd. 1. Definitions; opiate antagonist. Defines opiate antagonist as naloxone hydrochloride or other drug approved by the FDA for the treatment of drug overdose.

Section

Subd. 2. Authority to possess and administer opiate antagonists; release from liability. Releases non-health care providers from civil and criminal liability for either possessing opiate antagonists or administering the drug in good faith.

Subd. 3. Health care professionals; release from liability. Releases licensed health care professionals authorized to prescribe opiate antagonists from civil or criminal liability for, directly or by standing order, prescribing, dispensing, distributing, or administering the drug, in good faith.

Effective date. All sections are effective August 1, 2014, and apply to actions arising from incidents occurring on or after that date.

- 4 Seeking medical assistance; mitigating factors.** Adds § 631.205. Provides that the act of providing or seeking medical assistance for a person experiencing an overdose may be considered as a mitigating factor in a related in a related drug or alcohol prosecution, if the prosecutor does not provide immunity.
- 5 Citation.** States sections 2 and 3 may be known and cited as “Steve’s Law.”