

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

STATE
REVISED FISCAL IMPACT

(replaces fiscal note dated January 12, 2015)

Drafting Number: LLS 15-0059	Date: February 24, 2015
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Aguilar Rep. McCann; Lontine	Bill Status: House Health, Insurance, and Environment
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BILL TOPIC: DISPENSE SUPPLY OF EMERGENCY DRUGS FOR OVERDOSE VICTIMS

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal workload increase. See State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, physicians, physicians assistants, advanced nurse practitioners with prescriptive authority (licensed prescribers), and pharmacists (licensed dispensers) are permitted to prescribe or dispense opiate antagonists to aid specific individuals experiencing an opiate-related drug overdose event. Current law also extends civil and criminal immunity to all licensed prescribers, dispensers, and lay persons who administer opiate antagonists in a good-faith effort to assist an individual who may be experiencing an opiate-related drug overdose event. An opiate antagonist reverses the effects of an opioid drug, is not a controlled substance and is approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of a drug overdose.

The **reengrossed bill** extends this authority by permitting licensed prescribers and licensed dispensers to also prescribe or dispense opiate antagonist drugs either by a direct prescription or a standing order directly to individuals, a friend or family member of an individual who may experience an opiate-related drug overdose, an employee or volunteer of a harm reduction organization or a first responder. Licensed prescribers and licensed dispensers may prescribe or dispense permitted opiate-antagonist drugs in a good-faith effort. The bill provides related definitions.

Background

Senate Bill 13-014 provided civil and criminal immunity for persons other than health care providers or health care facilities who act in a good faith effort to administer an opiate antagonist to an individual who may be experiencing an opiate-related drug overdose event. The bill also provided civil and criminal immunity and protection against charges of unprofessional conduct for licensed prescribers and licensed dispensers.

State Expenditures

The bill will increase state expenditures by a minimal amount in FY 2015-16 only. The Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) will conduct rulemaking for three professional boards: the State Board of Nursing, the Colorado Medical Board, and the Pharmacy Board, to implement the changes in the bill. This rulemaking may also increase workload in the Department of Law to provide legal services to the DORA. The DORA may have costs to provide outreach to communicate these changes. These minimal workload increases can be absorbed within existing staff and appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Higher Education
Regulatory Agencies
Health Care Policy and Financing

Municipalities
Corrections
Public Safety