A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE USE OF MEASURES THAT DO NOT INVOLVE SCHEDULE 1 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES TO REDUCE THE HARM CAUSED BY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov/.)

Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Study Committee. The bill:

- Requires a carrier that provides coverage for opiate antagonists to reimburse a hospital if the hospital provides a covered person with an opiate antagonist upon discharge.
(section 1 of the bill);

Allows a pharmacist or pharmacy technician to sell a nonprescription syringe or needle to any person (sections 2 and 5);

Extends civil and criminal immunity for a person who acts in good faith to furnish or administer an opiate antagonist to an individual the person believes to be suffering an opiate-related drug overdose when the opiate antagonist was expired (sections 3 and 4);

Removes the requirement that entities first receive local board of health approval before operating a clean syringe exchange program (sections 6 and 7); and

Provides that money in the harm reduction grant program cash fund is continuously appropriated to the department of public health and environment for purposes of the harm reduction grant program and establishes an annual appropriation of an amount equal to the appropriation for the 2019-20 fiscal year plus $250,000 (section 8).

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 10-16-152 as follows:

10-16-152. Coverage for opiate antagonists provided by a hospital - definition. (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "OPIATE ANTAGONIST" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 12-30-110 (7)(d).

(2) A CARRIER THAT PROVIDES COVERAGE FOR OPIATE ANTAGONISTS PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF A HEALTH COVERAGE PLAN THE CARRIER OFFERS SHALL REIMBURSE A HOSPITAL FOR THE HOSPITAL'S COST OF AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST IF THE HOSPITAL GIVES A COVERED PERSON AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST UPON DISCHARGE FROM THE HOSPITAL.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-280-123, add (1)(c) as follows:

12-280-123. Prescription required - exception - dispensing
opiate antagonists. (1) (c) A PHARMACIST WHO DISPENSES A
PRESCRIPTION ORDER FOR A PRESCRIPTION DRUG THAT IS AN OPIOID SHALL
NOTIFY THE INDIVIDUAL TO WHOM THE OPIOID IS BEING DISPENSED ABOUT
THE AVAILABILITY OF AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST WHEN, IN THE
PHARMACIST’S PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT, THE INDIVIDUAL WOULD
BENEFIT FROM THE NOTIFICATION.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-280-123, add (4)
as follows:

12-280-123. Prescription required - exception - dispensing
opiate antagonists - selling nonprescription syringes and needles.
(4) A PHARMACIST OR PHARMACY TECHNICIAN MAY SELL A
NONPRESCRIPTION SYRINGE OR NEEDLE TO ANY PERSON.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-21-108.7, amend
(3)(a) as follows:

13-21-108.7. Persons rendering emergency assistance through
the administration of an opiate antagonist - limited immunity -
legislative declaration - definitions. (3) General immunity. (a) A
person, other than a health care provider or a health care facility, who acts
in good faith to furnish or administer an opiate antagonist, INCLUDING AN
EXPIRED OPIATE ANTAGONIST, to an individual the person believes to be
suffering an opiate-related drug overdose event or to an individual who
is in a position to assist the individual at risk of experiencing an
opiate-related overdose event is not liable for any civil damages for acts
or omissions made as a result of the act or for any act or omission made
if the opiate antagonist is stolen.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-1-712, amend
(2)(a) as follows:
18-1-712. Immunity for a person who administers an opiate antagonist during an opiate-related drug overdose event - definitions.

(2) General immunity. (a) A person, other than a health care provider or a health care facility, who acts in good faith to furnish or administer an opiate antagonist, INCLUDING AN EXPIRED OPIATE ANTAGONIST, to an individual the person believes to be suffering an opiate-related drug overdose event or to an individual who is in a position to assist the individual at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose event is immune from criminal prosecution for the act or for any act or omission made if the opiate antagonist is stolen.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 18-18-430.5 as follows:

18-18-430.5. Drug paraphernalia - exemption. (1) A person shall be exempt from the provisions of sections 18-18-425 to 18-18-430 if he or she is:

(a) Participating as an employee, volunteer, or participant in an approved syringe exchange program created pursuant to section 25-1-520; or

(b) A PHARMACIST OR PHARMACY TECHNICIAN WHO SELLS NONPRESCRIPTION SYRINGES OR NEEDLES PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-280-123 (4).

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1-520, amend (2.5) as follows:

25-1-520. Clean syringe exchange programs - operation - approval - reporting requirements. (2.5) (a) A program developed pursuant to this section may be operated in a hospital NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WITH EXPERIENCE OPERATING A CLEAN SYRINGE
EXCHANGE PROGRAM OR A HEALTH FACILITY licensed or certified by the state department pursuant to section 25-1.5-103 (1)(a) may operate a clean syringe exchange program without prior board approval.

(b) A health facility that operates a clean syringe exchange program pursuant to this subsection (2.5) shall report to the state department each month detailing the demographics of the clients the facility served, the number of clean syringes dispensed, and the number of used syringes collected.

(c) Prior to operating a clean syringe exchange program pursuant to this subsection (2.5), a nonprofit organization shall consult with interested stakeholders and discuss the issues described in subsection (1) of this section. A nonprofit organization that operates a clean syringe exchange program pursuant to this subsection (2.5) shall report to the state department each month detailing the demographics of the clients the nonprofit organization served, the number of clean syringes dispensed, and the number of used syringes collected.

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-280-123, add (1)(c) as follows:

12-280-123. Prescription required - exception - dispensing opiate antagonists. (1)(c) A pharmacist who dispenses a prescription order for a prescription drug that is an opioid shall notify the individual to whom the opioid is being dispensed about the availability of an opiate antagonist at no charge to the individual when, in the pharmacist’s professional judgment, the individual would benefit from the notification.
SECTION 9. Effective date. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, this act takes effect upon passage.

(2) Section 2 of this act takes effect only if Senate Bill 20-007 does not become law.

(3) Section 10 of this act takes effect only if Senate Bill 20-007 becomes law, in which case section 10 takes effect on the effective date of this act or Senate Bill 20-007, whichever is later.

SECTION 10. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.