

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5059

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 14, 2019

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Mazzeo, Assemblywoman Murphy and Assemblyman Benson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes local drug overdose fatality review teams in each county in State.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/18/2019)**

1 AN ACT regarding drug overdoses and supplementing Title 26 of  
2 the Revised Statutes.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6  
7 1. a. The Commissioner of Health shall establish a local drug  
8 overdose fatality review team for each county in this State. A local  
9 drug overdose fatality review team may be assigned to one or more  
10 counties where practicable. Each local drug overdose fatality  
11 review team shall elect a chairman to administer a process of review  
12 and enact and implement a standard protocol for the collection and  
13 maintenance of data that shall be consistent with all teams.

14 b. Local drug overdose fatality review teams shall consist of  
15 individuals with experience and knowledge regarding health, social  
16 services, law enforcement, education, emergency medicine, mental  
17 health, juvenile delinquency, and drug and alcohol abuse.

18 c. All participants shall disclose to the commissioner all related  
19 records of a deceased individual, whose death has been determined  
20 to be the result of a drug overdose, including information and  
21 records related to physical health, mental health, and treatment for  
22 substance abuse that are maintained by a health care provider, and  
23 provide access to information and records maintained by a State or  
24 local government agency, including death certificates, law  
25 enforcement information, medical examiner information, parole and  
26 probation information, social service information and educational  
27 information. The commissioner shall transfer the records to the  
28 local drug overdose fatality review team assigned to the county in  
29 which the individual's death occurred.

30 d. Each local drug overdose fatality review team shall:

- 31 (1) develop methods to help prevent drug overdoses;  
32 (2) explore methods to promote cooperation among multi-  
33 disciplinary agencies in providing services to individuals with  
34 substance use disorders;  
35 (3) develop an understanding of the causes of drug overdoses;  
36 (4) recommend possible changes to law and policy to prevent  
37 drug overdoses; and  
38 (5) meet at least quarterly to review drug overdose cases  
39 submitted to the commissioner pursuant to this section, as well as  
40 available criminal, educational, substance abuse, and mental health  
41 records of the deceased individuals.

42 e. As used in this section:

43 "Drug overdose" means an acute condition including, but not  
44 limited to, physical illness, coma, mania, hysteria, or death resulting  
45 from the consumption or use of a controlled dangerous substance or  
46 another substance with which a controlled dangerous substance was  
47 combined and that a layperson would reasonably believe to require  
48 medical assistance.



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2 prevent drug overdoses; and (5) meet at least quarterly to review  
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4 available criminal, educational substance abuse, and mental health  
5 records of the deceased individuals.