

SENATE, No. 2929

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Corrado

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/25/2018)

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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5 records of the deceased individuals.