

S. 2281 – An Act Relative to Substance Abuse Education and Prevention

Bill Summary

Between 2002 and 2007, 3,265 Massachusetts residents died of opiate-related overdoses.

*The total cost of substance abuse and addiction to the Commonwealth in 2005, the most recent year for which aggregate data are available, was over **\$4.5 billion** per year, which represented **21.8 percent** of the total state budget in 2005.*

*In Massachusetts, OxyContin became so widely abused, that the addiction rate for the drug in Massachusetts increased by **950 percent in the last ten years**.*

*In 2007 there were **18,516** individuals who were admitted to a state-funded Acute Treatment Service (detox) program for at least one admission.*

*In 2007 there were **105,552** admissions to DPH-funded substance abuse programs in Massachusetts.*

What the bill does

Education and Prevention in Schools

- Each school district is required to adopt a substance abuse education and prevention policy pursuant to guidelines developed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Tamper Resistant Prescription Pads

- Requires the Board of Registration in Pharmacy to designate an official prescription form for use by practitioners authorized to write prescriptions for controlled substances in the Commonwealth.

Pain Management Training for Prescribers and Patients

- Requires prescribing practitioners complete training in effective pain management in order to obtain or renew a professional license.

Overdose Notification and Prevention for Minors

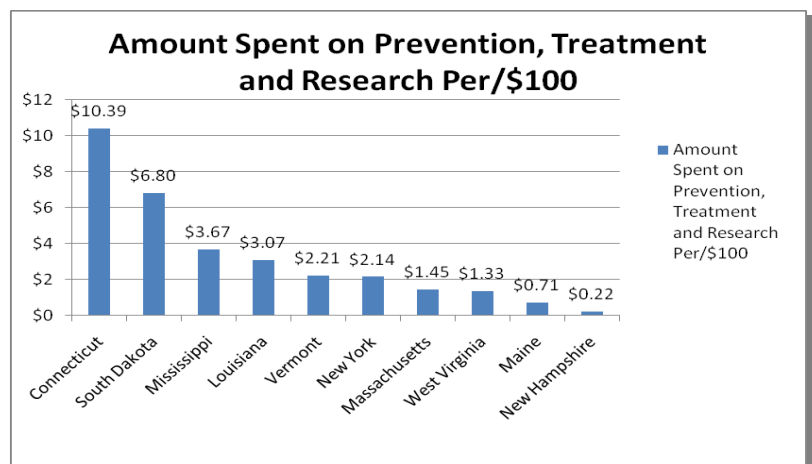
- Requires parental notification when a physician or hospital treats a minor for a drug or alcohol overdose.

Good Samaritan

- Provides limited immunity from drug possession charges and prosecution when a drug related overdose victim or a witness to an overdose seeks medical attention.

Insurance Coverage

- Requires deference to the treating clinician's judgment when an insurance carrier makes adverse determinations for coverage of mental health or substance abuse treatment.



CORI – Certificates of Recovery

- Directs the creation of a substance abuse degree and certificate program for individuals with criminal offender record information (CORI).

Substance Abuse Counselor Pilot Program

- Establishes guidelines for a pilot program to provide substance abuse and addiction training to a teacher, guidance counselor, or school nurse in at least one middle school and at least one high school in each county in the Commonwealth.

Education for Courts on Treatment Programs

- Provides for the development and implementation of a program for judges and court personnel that examines substance abuse treatment resources available to individuals convicted or charged with a crime in the Commonwealth.

Bureau of Substance Abuse Services Helpline

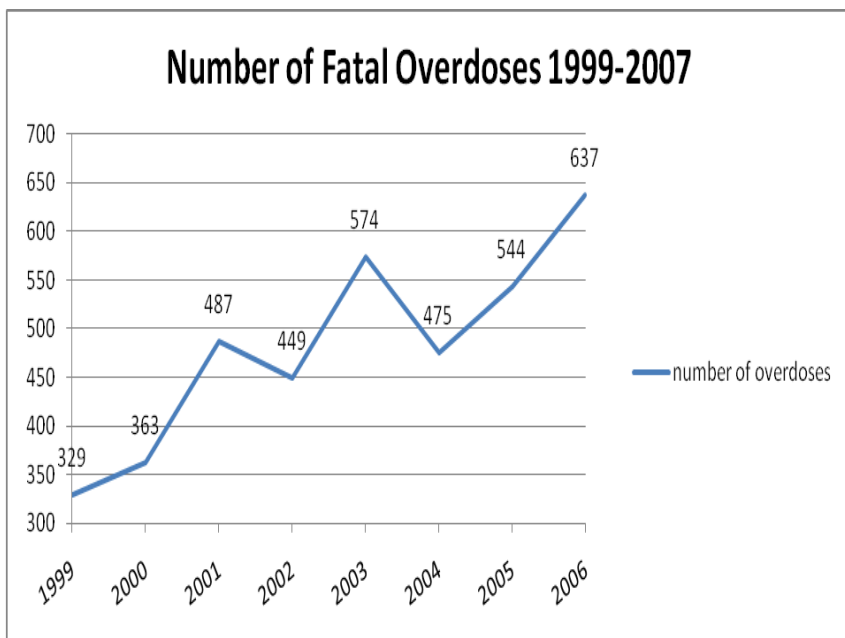
- Provides for the establishment and advertisement of a free, anonymous, and confidential telephone helpline that provides information and referrals related to substance abuse treatment and prevention services.

Prescription Monitoring Program

- Requires the Department of Public Health to issue regulations to include Schedule II, III, IV, and V prescriptions in electronic reporting and prescription monitoring program requirements.

Discharge Requirement for Treatment Facilities

- Requires the Department of Public Health to issue requirements on all state licensed treatment facilities to include mandated discharge plans for all clients leaving the facility.



Workforce Development

- Requires the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to conduct an investigation and a study on the feasibility of a post treatment job skills training program and/or re-entry program for individuals recovering from substance use disorders.

Parent Support Network

- Requires the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services to develop a statewide parent support network to assist parents with and educate the public on issues of substance abuse disorders.

**CALL YOUR LEGISLATOR TODAY AND ASK HIM/HER TO SUPPORT S. 2281
(as recommended by the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse)**

**Find out who your legislators are by visiting: www.wheredoivotema.com
or calling 800-462-8683 (VOTE)**