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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, Diaz, Hull, Shekarchi, and Handy

Date Introduced: January 08, 2015

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-21 of the General Laws entitled "Health and Safety of Pupils" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-21-35. Opioid-related drug overdose -- Use of opioid antagonists -- Immunity for**
4 **those administering.** – (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the
5 following meanings:

6 (1) "Opioid antagonist" means any drug that binds to opioid receptors and blocks or
7 disinhibits the effects of opioids acting on those receptors including naloxone hydrochloride, also
8 known as Narcan or naloxone.

9 (2) "Opioid-related drug overdose" means a condition including, but not limited to,
10 extreme physical illness, decreased level of consciousness, respiratory depression, coma or death
11 resulting from the consumption or use of an opioid or another substance with which an opioid
12 was combined, or that a layperson would reasonably believe to be an opioid-related drug
13 overdose that requires medical assistance.

14 (3) "School setting" means circumstances occurring while at school or at school-
15 sponsored events or activities.

16 (b) All public middle schools, junior high schools and high schools, shall provide and
17 maintain on-site in each school facility opioid antagonists, as defined herein.

18 (c) To treat a case of suspected opioid overdose in a school setting, any trained school
19 employee may administer an opioid antagonist, during an emergency, to any student or staff

1 suspected of having an opioid-related drug overdose whether or not there is a previous history of
2 opioid abuse. School nurse-teachers may receive training in the administrators of opioid
3 antagonists provided by the department of health. Teachers and other school administration and
4 personnel may opt to participate in training; however, in no case shall school nurse-teachers be
5 required to provide training. Provided, school physicians shall prepare standing orders for the
6 procedures to be followed in dealing with a suspected opioid overdose in a school setting. Such
7 standing orders shall not require any school staff to administer an opioid antagonist but shall state
8 the procedures to be followed by a staff person who so chooses to act, as well as procedures other
9 than, or in addition to, the administration of the opioid antagonist.

10 (d) Opioid antagonists shall be maintained in quantities and types deemed adequate by
11 the department of elementary and secondary education and the department of health, who shall
12 incorporate into their policies, rules, and regulations a procedure for addressing incidents of
13 opioid-related drug overdose in order to provide for the health and safety of children. Any policy,
14 rule or regulation shall ensure that the opioid antagonist is kept in a conspicuous place, readily
15 available and that its proper use is made known to school personnel, but with provisions made for
16 the safekeeping and security of the opioid antagonist so that the security of the medication will
17 not be compromised.

18 (e) No school teacher, school nurse-teacher, school administrator, or other school
19 personnel shall be liable for civil damages which may result from acts or omissions relating to the
20 use of the opioid antagonist which may constitute ordinary negligence; nor shall the school
21 personnel mentioned in this subsection be subject to criminal prosecution which may result from
22 acts or omissions in the good faith administration of an opioid antagonist. This immunity does not
23 apply to acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton conduct.

24 (f) No school teacher, school nurse-teacher, school administrator or other school
25 personnel shall be subject to penalty or disciplinary action for refusing to be trained in the
26 administration of an opioid antagonist.

27 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

1 This act would require middle schools, junior high schools, and high schools to maintain
2 opioid antagonists on the school premises for administration by school personnel in an emergency
3 to pupils or staff suspected of having an opioid-related drug overdose. School physicians would
4 prepare standing orders for the procedures to be followed in dealing with a suspected opioid
5 overdose in a school setting. This act would also provide immunity to school personnel for the
6 administration of an opioid antagonist in a school setting.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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