

2025 -- H 5595 SUBSTITUTE A AS AMENDED

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE GOOD SAMARITAN OVERDOSE
PREVENTION ACT OF 2016

Introduced By: Representatives McGaw, Casimiro, Boylan, Speakman, Donovan, Kislak,
DeSimone, Tanzi, Edwards, and Fogarty
Date Introduced: February 26, 2025

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 21-28.9 of the General Laws entitled "The Good Samaritan Overdose
2 Prevention Act of 2016" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:
- 3 **21-28.9-6. Opioid overdose prevention in college and university housing.**
- 4 (a) Every institute of higher education in the State of Rhode Island including all public and
5 private colleges and universities shall provide training in the administration of opioid antagonists
6 to every resident assistant as designated by the institution. Such campuses shall provide and
7 maintain on site in each college or university-owned or operated housing units, opioid antagonists
8 in quantities and types sufficient to meet the needs of the housing unit. Such opioid antagonists
9 shall be accessible by resident assistants for use during emergencies to any student, staff, or other
10 individual.
- 11 (b) Every institute of higher education under this section may designate additional
12 employees or staff members who administer opioid antagonists on a voluntary basis in the event a
13 resident assistant is not physically present at a suspected overdose incident; provided that, such
14 employee is trained in the administration of opioid antagonists.
- 15 (c) Any person or entity acting reasonably and in good faith in compliance with this section
16 shall not be subject to criminal, civil, or administrative liability solely by reason of such action,
17 pursuant to chapter 28.9 of title 21, nor shall they be subject to liability, penalty, or disciplinary
18 action based on any college or university rules, regulations, or procedures.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on September 1, 2025.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T
RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE GOOD SAMARITAN OVERDOSE
PREVENTION ACT OF 2016

- 1 This act would require that every institution of higher education provide training in the
- 2 administration of opioid antagonists to every staff member on the institution's campus.
- 3 This act would take effect on September 1, 2025.

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