

2025 -- S 0464 SUBSTITUTE A

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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: Senators Murray, DiMario, Euer, Gallo, Felag, LaMountain, Mack,  
Thompson, Acosta, Urso, and Valverde  
Date Introduced: February 26, 2025

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

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/university housing.**
- 4           (a) Every college or university of higher education chartered in the State of Rhode Island
- 5   shall provide training in the administration of opioid antagonists to every resident assistant as
- 6   designated by the institution. Such colleges and universities shall provide and maintain onsite, in
- 7   each college/university-owned or college/university-operated housing, opioid antagonists in
- 8   quantities and types required by the department of health. Such opioid antagonists shall be
- 9   accessible by every resident assistant for use during emergencies to any student, staff, or other
- 10   individual on college/university-owned or college/university-operated housing premises suspected
- 11   of having an opioid-involved overdose, even if there exists a previous history of opioid use.
- 12           (b) Each college or university described in subsection (a) of this section may designate
- 13   additional employees who volunteer to administer opioid antagonists in the event a resident
- 14   assistant is not physically present at a suspected overdose incident; provided that, such employee
- 15   is trained in the administration of opioid antagonists by a program approved by the department of
- 16   health.
- 17           (c) Any person or entity acting reasonably and in good faith in compliance with the
- 18   provisions of this section shall not, as the result of acts or omissions in providing services pursuant

1 to this section, be subject to administrative liability, civil liability or criminal prosecution unless  
2 the acts or omissions constitute willful and wanton misconduct, nor shall they be subject to liability,  
3 penalty, or disciplinary action based on college/university rules, regulations, or procedures.

4 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 FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE GOOD SAMARITAN OVERDOSE  
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1           This act would mandate every college or university in Rhode Island to provide training in  
2   the administration of opioid antagonists to every resident assistant as designated by the institution,  
3   and would also authorize those colleges and universities to include trained employee volunteers to  
4   act in accordance with this act. This act would also provide that the college or university and any  
5   person authorized by the college or university to administer an opioid antagonist be exempt from  
6   administrative liability, civil liability or criminal prosecution as a result of administering opioid  
7   antagonists.

8           This act would take effect upon passage.

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