

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 142 entitled “An act relating to designating August 31 as Overdose
4 Awareness Day” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

8 The General Assembly finds:

9 (1) According to the Department of Health’s Monthly Opioid Update
10 (February 2021), in calendar year 2019, approximately 100 nonsuicidal drug
11 deaths involving opioids were recorded, 87 percent of which were fentanyl
12 related, and in calendar year 2020, the number of similar deaths increased
13 to 134, 89 percent of which were fentanyl related.

14 (2) According to the Department of Health’s Opioids Scorecard, during
15 the first quarter of calendar year 2020, nearly 1,700 naloxone rescue kits were
16 provided to Vermonters as an overdose prevention measure.

17 (3) In fiscal year 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
18 reported 128 drug overdose cases in Vermont, and in fiscal year 2020, the
19 number of overdose cases increased to 146.

1 (4) Governor Philip Scott proclaimed February 17, 2021 as Recovery
2 Day, demonstrating the State’s commitment to supporting those with mental
3 illness, addictions, and co-occurring conditions.

4 (5) Annually, Overdose Awareness Day is observed internationally on
5 August 31 to raise awareness of drug overdoses, to reduce the associated
6 stigma, and to acknowledge the grief of the families and friends of persons
7 who have experienced a drug overdose.

8 (6) Designating Drug Overdose Awareness Day as a Vermont
9 commemorative day recognizes the importance of each person who has
10 experienced a drug overdose, and it reminds Vermonters that death due to a
11 drug overdose is preventable.

12 Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 378 is added to read:

13 § 378. OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

14 August 31 of each year is designated as Overdose Awareness Day.

15 Sec. 3. 1 V.S.A. 496f is added to read:

16 § 496f. FLAG PROTOCOL; OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

17 The Department of Buildings and General Services shall direct, in the flag
18 flying protocol established in section 496d of this title, that the Vermont State
19 flag shall be flown at half-staff, on all State-owned flag poles, on August 31
20 each year in observance of Overdose Awareness Day.

21 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

1 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

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9 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE