



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

5/9/2023

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H.72 – An act relating to a harm-reduction criminal justice response to drug use

As amended by the House Committee on Human Services, Draft 6.1¹

Bill Summary

This bill proposes several provisions relating to harm-reduction and criminal justice responses to drug use. The following sections of the bill would fiscal impacts:

Sections 4 and 5 – Manufacturer Fee & the Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund

Sec. 4 of the bill would increase the prescription drug manufacturer fee from 1.75% to 2.25% of the previous calendar year's prescription drug spending by the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA), based on manufacturer labeler codes used in the Medicaid rebate program.² This increase is estimated to raise an additional \$1.3 million each year. Revenues from the manufacturer fee are deposited into the Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund and can be used for a variety of activities as specified in 33 V.S.A. § 2004a.

Additionally, sections 4 and 5 amend statute to allow a new use for these funds; “grants to overdose prevention centers to address the harms of the opioid epidemic.”³

Section 6 – Pilot Program; Overdose Prevention Centers

Sec. 6 would authorize \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 from the Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund to the Department of Health for the purpose of awarding one or more grants for fixed-site or mobile overdose prevention centers to applicants that demonstrate the ability to run such a program.

Sections 7 and 8 – Study and Appropriation

Sec. 7 would require that the Department of Health contract with a researcher or independent consulting entity with expertise in the field of rural addiction or overdose prevention centers, or both, to study the impact of the overdose prevention center pilot programs authorized in Sec. 6. The study shall evaluate the current impacts of the overdose crisis in Vermont, as well as any changes up to four years following the implementation of the overdose prevention center pilot programs. In addition to interim annual reports, the Department would submit a final report with the results of the study and recommendations to the

¹[https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/WorkGroups/House%20Human%20Services/Bills/H.72/Drafts,%20Amendments%20and%20Legal%20Documents/H.72~Michele%20Childs~House%20Committee%20on%20Human%20Services%20Committee%20Report%20\(9-2-0\)~5-8-2023.pdf](https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/WorkGroups/House%20Human%20Services/Bills/H.72/Drafts,%20Amendments%20and%20Legal%20Documents/H.72~Michele%20Childs~House%20Committee%20on%20Human%20Services%20Committee%20Report%20(9-2-0)~5-8-2023.pdf)

² 33 V.S.A. § 2004

³ 33 V.S.A. § 2004a

General Assembly on or before January 15, 2029.

Sec. 8 would appropriate \$300,000 to the Department of Health from the General Fund for the purpose of funding the study authorized in Sec. 7.

Overview

Appropriation / Authorization				
Sec.	To	For	Amount	Fund
6	Vermont Health Department	Grants to overdose prevention centers	\$1,000,000	Evidence-based education and advertising Fund
7,8	Vermont Health Department	Contract with researcher / consulting entity to study overdose prevention center program	\$300,000	General Fund
Sec.	Revenue			Fund
4		Manufacturer Fee	\$1,300,000	Evidence-based education and advertising Fund