

1 H.596

2 Introduced by Representative Boutin of Barre City

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Human services; opioid use disorder; opioid antagonist; mental health  
6 screening

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
8 Department of Health to include in its opioid overdose prevention,  
9 intervention, and response strategy a provision that a hospital provide a mental  
10 health screening to each individual it treats who has been administered an  
11 opioid antagonist.

12 An act relating to completion of a mental health screening after  
13 administration of an opioid antagonist

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 4257 is amended to read:

16 § 4257. PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF OPIOID-RELATED  
17 OVERDOSES

18 \* \* \*

19 (b) For the purpose of addressing prescription and nonprescription opioid  
20 overdoses in Vermont, the Department shall develop and implement a

1 prevention, intervention, and response strategy, depending on available  
2 resources, that shall:

3 (1) provide educational materials on opioid overdose prevention to the  
4 public free of charge;

5 (2) increase community-based prevention programs aimed at reducing  
6 risk factors that lead to opioid overdoses;

7 (3) increase timely access to treatment services for opioid users,  
8 including medication for opioid use disorder;

9 (4)(A) educate substance use treatment providers on methods to prevent  
10 opioid overdoses;

11 (B) provide education, information, and training on overdose  
12 prevention, intervention, and response, including the status of legal possession  
13 of substances and harm reduction supplies, to individuals living with opioid  
14 use disorder and participating in needle and syringe exchange programs,  
15 recovery programs, residential substance use disorder treatment programs, or  
16 correctional services;

17 (5) implement and expand hospital referral services for individuals  
18 treated for an opioid overdose, including ensuring that a patient receive a  
19 mental health screening after the administration of an opioid antagonist;

10                   This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.