



New Hampshire State Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

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Senate votes to put brakes on Rx drug abuse

SB 286 has broad, bi-partisan support

CONCORD – The state Senate made a strong statement against prescription drug abuse today by passing SB 286 today. The legislation is designed to create a system to track controlled drugs, reduce the incidents of doctor shopping and prevent deadly drug overdoses. Supporters have been compelled by the grim reality that more Granite Staters die from drug-related deaths every year than from car accidents.

The bill gives the state's Board of Pharmacy the authority to contract with a secure vendor to collect data from individuals who obtain prescription pain medications from pharmacies. The information will be entered into a data base that doctors would be able to access, which will help them ascertain whether the individual's request is legitimate or an attempt to obtain a drug illegally.

Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley, R-Wolfeboro, applauded the strong bi-partisan support the legislation has gained, adding, "Overdoses from prescription drugs and doctor shopping are serious problems here in New Hampshire. SB 286 will stop these abuses, but it won't stop those people who legitimately need access to pain medication. As importantly, it also includes privacy personal protections."

Enfield Chief Richard Crate, of the NH Association of Chiefs of Police, a strong supporter of SB 286 previously called the bill an important toll for doctors and pharmacists to better treat patients and keep us safe. "This legislation is not law enforcement drive, it is a public safety issue," he said.

(Note: Floor vote: passed on a voice vote H&HS Committee vote: 5-0 Prime: Sen. Bradley)

Background:

- SB 286 has the support of healthcare providers, NH's attorney general, the Board of Pharmacy, the Board of Medicine, law enforcement, the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention and community support groups such as New Futures.
- NH is the 2nd ranked state in the 18-25 age category in terms of prescription drug abuse
- SB 286 creates no cost to the state. The program will be paid for with gifts, grants or user fees.

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