



New Hampshire Senate

News Release

For Immediate Release:

January 14, 2016

Media Contact:

Kate Giaquinto

kate.giaquinto@leg.state.nh.us

(603) 271-3043

Senate passes expedited bills to curb opioid crisis in New Hampshire

Bills include prevention, education and treatment measures

Concord, NH -Today, the Senate passed a series of expedited bills recommended by the Joint Taskforce on the response to the heroin and opioid epidemic in New Hampshire.

These bills will be voted on by the full House on Jan. 20 and will head to the Governor's desk for signature.

"The Senate today passed three critical bills aimed at curbing the heroin and opioid epidemic in New Hampshire based on the strong recommendations of the Joint Task Force. Today's votes showed a continuation of our effort to make changes to our laws to help curb the substance abuse crisis facing our state," said Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro).

"I want to thank everyone who worked on SB 576, which provides a multi-faceted path towards reducing addiction and opioid related overdoses in our state. This bill removes barriers for addicts who are seeking recovery services, expands use to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, while also increasing penalties for individuals in possession of Fentanyl," said Bradley.

"The Senate approved SB 447 which establishes a commission to study all aspects of the use of Narcan more thoroughly, including proper training on administering, considering reporting mechanisms and ensuring that individuals using Narcan are receiving proper treatment for their underlying addiction," said Senator Andy Sanborn (R-Bedford).

"The Senate passed SB 369, expanding the drug and alcohol education in K-12 in New Hampshire. Ensuring that our student are receiving preventative drug and alcohol instruction consistently starting at a young age effectively decreases the likelihood of substance abuse by our students later on," said Senator Nancy Stiles (R-Hampton).

The legislation passed includes:

SB 369-FN - requiring public schools to include drug and alcohol education as part of their health education curriculum

SB 576-FN-A - relative to the penalty for possession and use of fentanyl-class drugs, insurance coverage for substance use disorders, the acceptance of general funds by the controlled drug prescription health and safety program, the membership of the board of medicine and prescribers of controlled drugs and making an appropriation therefor.

SB 447-FN - relative to the controlled drug prescription health and safety program and establishing a commission to study Narcan.

###