Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Wendy Risner

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 57 of the 130th G.A. **Date**: May 16, 2013

Status: As Passed by the Senate **Sponsor**: Sen. Manning

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Lorain County Pilot Project

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill requires the Ohio Department of Health to conduct a study of the effectiveness of the pilot project in Lorain County and to prepare a report of the Department's findings and certain specified recommendations. The Department estimates that it would cost approximately $43,000 to provide program evaluation for the pilot project.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill establishes a pilot project, which would be in operation between August 1, 2013 and July 31, 2014, in Lorain County in which qualified emergency responders who serve in that county may obtain and administer naloxone to a person suffering from an apparent opioid-related overdose. According to the Lorain County Coroner's Office, costs for starting up the pilot project will likely be under $5,000, which would be for purchasing the naloxone kits and training first responders. Qualified emergency responders who are employed by local government entities would likely go to the naloxone administration training as part of their current responsibilities.
- The bill requires the Lorain County Narcan Task Force to conduct a study of the effectiveness of the pilot project and to prepare a report of the Task Force's findings and certain specified recommendations. The Task Force will realize an increase in administrative costs for conducting the study.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Lorain County Naloxone Pilot Program

The bill establishes a pilot project in Lorain County in which qualified emergency responders who serve in that county may obtain and administer naloxone to a person suffering from an apparent opioid-related overdose. The pilot program will begin on August 1, 2013 and end on July 31, 2014. The bill requires the Lorain County Coroner to provide, or to designate one or more licensed health professionals or registered nurses to provide, training to emergency responders in recognizing and responding to an opioid overdose and to provide emergency responders who satisfactorily complete the training a letter indicating that completion.

The bill requires emergency medical service organizations, law enforcement agencies, and firefighting agencies to maintain a record of the receipt and use of naloxone by qualified emergency responders who receive and use naloxone and to send monthly reports to certain entities. Additionally, these entities are required to send monthly reports containing certain information to the Lorain County Narcan Task Force, the Lorain County Coroner, and the Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). The Task Force and ODH are each required to conduct a separate study of the effectiveness of the pilot project and to each prepare a report that contains findings and certain recommendations. Lastly, the bill requires the Lorain County Coroner to develop a uniform standardized reporting form to be used by emergency medical service organizations, law enforcement agencies, and firefighting agencies to make the monthly reports.

According to the Lorain County Coroner's Office, costs for starting up the pilot project will likely be under $5,000. The Coroner's Office anticipates that between 100 and 200 naloxone kits will be purchased at a cost of $20 each. Additional kits would be purchased if these supplies are exhausted before the pilot project's end. The Coroner's Office stated that the Office would conduct the trainings for qualified emergency responders at no charge to these individuals or the entities that employ them. As a result, the Coroner's Office would experience an increase in administrative costs. However, the costs should be minimal as long as training could be conducted using existing staff and resources. Qualified emergency responders who are employed by local government entities would likely go to the naloxone administration training as part of their current responsibilities.

The Lorain County Narcan Task Force and ODH will realize an increase in administrative costs for conducting the study. ODH estimates that it would cost approximately $43,000 to perform the requirements in the bill. This would include the costs associated with a part-time program evaluator, travel, and supplies.

There could be indirect savings associated with the bill to the Medicaid Program if individuals enrolled on Medicaid are administered naloxone during an opioid overdose and the naloxone helps to prevent medical complications.

Immunity from liability

The bill specifies that a licensed health professional, qualified emergency responder, emergency medical service organization, law enforcement agency, firefighting agency, or registered nurse who participates in the pilot program, acts in good faith and does not act with malicious purpose, in bad faith, or in a wanton or reckless manner is not subject to civil liability for acts committed in compliance with the program. Additionally, the individuals or entities listed are also not subject to action by a professional licensing board or criminal prosecution as long as the individual or entity acts in compliance with the pilot program.

Background information on Ohio naloxone projects

The Portsmouth City Health Department started an overdose reversal project called "Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone)" in June 2012. The project was started with a one-time $40,000 allocation from the Ohio Department of Health. The project serves all of Scioto County and program participants receive training on the following: (1) recognizing the signs and symptoms of overdose, (2) distinguishing between different overdose types, (3) performing rescue breathing, (4) calling emergency medical services, and (5) administering intranasal naloxone.[1] In January 2013 a spokesperson stated that the training lasts approximately one-half hour and that an individual who has previously completed training can administer a training session. After training has been completed, the individual receives a packet of information, a training DVD, and a prescription for naloxone. There is no charge for the individual for training or for the prescription. The Portsmouth City Health Department has an account with a local pharmacy and pays for the prescriptions. Individuals receive two doses of naloxone medication at a cost of $44, or $22 per dose. The estimated cost to train one individual is approximately $50, which includes the cost of the DVD, training, and the prescription.

The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland also has a naloxone project that is called the "Cuyahoga County Project DAWN." The program allows opioid users to receive instruction on the use of naloxone and a naloxone kit.

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[1] http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/vipp/drug/ProjectDAWN.aspx.