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Opioid Overdose Reduction Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Mar 11, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Mar 11, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/707>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]	R · NH		Mar 11, 2015
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 11, 2015
Sen. Toomey, Patrick [R-PA]	R · PA		Apr 14, 2015
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jul 14, 2015
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 2, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 11, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1821	Identical bill	Jun 26, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

Opioid Overdose Reduction Act of 2015

This bill exempts individuals from liability for harm caused by the emergency administration of an opioid overdose drug under certain circumstances. (An opioid is a drug with effects similar to opium, such as heroin.) The individuals exempted from liability are:

- a health care professional who prescribes or provides an opioid overdose drug to an individual at risk of experiencing an opioid overdose or to another individual in a position to assist an at-risk individual, if the individual prescribed or provided the drug has been educated about opioid overdose prevention and treatment by the health care professional or as part of a government opioid overdose program;
- an individual who provides an opioid overdose drug for emergency administration to another individual authorized to receive it as part of an opioid overdose program; and
- an individual who administers an opioid overdose drug to another individual who appears to have suffered an opioid overdose if the administering individual obtained the drug from a health care professional or as part of an opioid overdose program and was educated by the professional or program in the proper administration of the drug.

These exemptions are inapplicable if the harm was caused by gross negligence or reckless misconduct.

States can preempt these exemptions by providing additional protections from liability for individuals that administer opioid overdose drugs, or by enacting legislation making this Act not applicable to state civil action involving only citizens from that state.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 11, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 11, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.