

SENATE No. 1410

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joan B. Lovely

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act helping overdosing persons in emergencies.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>3/25/2025</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>4/2/2025</i>

SENATE No. 1410

By Ms. Lovely, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1410) of Joan B. Lovely relative to the requirements and procedures necessary for first responders to provide urgent help to persons at risk of serious and deadly harm from opioids and opioid overdose. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2008 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act helping overdosing persons in emergencies.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to authorize forthwith certain requirements and procedures necessary for first responders to provide urgent help to persons at risk of serious and deadly harm from opioids and opioid overdose, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 94C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Opiate” the following
3 definition:-

4 “Opioid antagonist”, a drug, including but not limited to naloxone, approved by the
5 federal Food and Drug Administration for the complete or partial reversal of an opioid or opiate
6 overdose.

7 SECTION 2. Section 34A of chapter 94C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
8 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following 2 subsections:-

9 f) State and municipal law enforcement personnel and emergency medical personnel
10 including, but not limited to, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and fire department
11 personnel may provide and transfer an opioid antagonist to an individual or to an individual's
12 family member, friend, or other person with knowledge of an individual's prior substance use,
13 along with instructions on administration and use of the opioid antagonist, to provide opioid
14 overdose protection to an individual. The provision and transfer of an opioid antagonist shall be
15 based upon the good faith judgement of the law enforcement or emergency medical personnel
16 including but not limited to their experience, training, knowledge, observations and the
17 information provided by an individual at substantial risk of experiencing an opioid-related
18 overdose event or from an individual's family, friend or others with knowledge of an
19 individual's prior opioid use; provided, however, that such provision or transfer of opioid
20 antagonists shall be subject such drug's availability; provided further, that a governmental entity
21 or organization that employs such law enforcement and emergency medical personnel may
22 promulgate or implement reasonable rules or regulations concerning such provision or transfer.

23 (g) A person acting in good faith may provide, administer or utilize testing equipment to
24 assist another person in identifying or analyzing the strength, effectiveness or purity of a
25 controlled substance. A person who, in good faith, provides, administers or utilizes testing
26 equipment to assist another person in identifying or in analyzing the strength, effectiveness or
27 purity of a controlled substance shall not be charged or prosecuted for possession of a controlled
28 substance under section 34 or possession of drug paraphernalia under section 32I. Testing

29 equipment shall include, but not be limited to, fentanyl test strips, colorimetric reagents, high-
30 performance liquid chromatography, gas chromatography and mass spectrometry.

31 SECTION 3. Section 201 of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
32 amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:-

33 First aid training required under this section shall include instruction on how to
34 administer opioid antagonists, in overdose emergencies. The training for the administration of
35 opioid antagonists shall meet the standards prescribed by the department. Required personnel
36 shall satisfactorily complete an initial instruction as soon as practical, but in no event more than
37 1 year after the start date of their employment. Notwithstanding the foregoing, required
38 personnel who began their employment before the effective date of the training requirement
39 prescribed under this paragraph shall satisfactorily complete their instruction as soon as practical,
40 but in no event more than 1 year after said effective date. Satisfactory completion of a refresher
41 course in administering opioid antagonists as approved by the department shall be required every
42 3 years, unless the department establishes an earlier time requirement by regulation.

43 SECTION 4. Said chapter 111, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting
44 after section 201, the following section:-

45 Section 201½. (a) As used in this section, the following words, unless the context clearly
46 requires otherwise, shall have the following meanings:-

47 “Emergency first response vehicle”, any official government motor vehicle and
48 motorized watercraft that is intended and primarily operated to provide for the transport and
49 rapid response of first responders to emergencies involving the public.

50 “First responders”, members of police and fire departments, members of the state police
51 participating in highway patrol, and members of emergency reserve units of a volunteer fire
52 department or fire protection district, who are trained to administer an opioid antagonist pursuant
53 to the first aid training requirements under section 201; provided, however, that first responders
54 shall not include police officers, fire department personnel and persons engaged in police and
55 fire work whose duties are primarily clerical or administrative.

56 “Opioid antagonist”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 94C.

57 (b) A governmental entity or organization shall be responsible to provide on duty first
58 responders with an opioid antagonist for use in opioid overdose emergencies. This requirement
59 shall be complied with by implementing 1, or any part or combination, of the following methods:

60 (i) equipping emergency first response vehicles under its ownership, care or control with an
61 opioid antagonist; or (ii) supplying an opioid antagonist to its first responders to be carried by
62 such persons when on duty; provided, however, that replacement doses are made available no
63 less than 48 hours following the administration of the last remaining dose of opioid antagonist
64 provided by the government entity or organization to the first responder or made available in the
65 emergency first response vehicle.

66 (c) The requirement of a government entity or organization to provide its first responders
67 with an opioid antagonist under this section, shall be subject to such drug’s availability, provided
68 the government entity or organization has taken reasonable measures, as soon as practicable, to
69 acquire and replenish its supply of an obtainable opioid antagonist to comply with this
70 requirement.

71 (d) No cost shall be assessed to first responders by their employing or appointing
72 governmental entity or organization for any opioid antagonist required under this section to be
73 supplied or made available to first responders, including any device necessary for first
74 responders to carry the drug when on duty, which shall be provided by such entity or
75 organization.

76 (e) The immunity provisions established under subsection (g) of section 19B and 34A of
77 chapter 94C shall also apply to first responders who administer an opioid antagonist.

78 SECTION 5. Subsections (b) through (d), inclusive, of Section 4 shall take effect 8
79 months after the passage of this act.