

The Opioid Bill



MA Senate Passes | **Bill to Prevent Opioid Addiction**

S. 2022 An Act Relative to Substance Use Prevention

Summary

- 1 The legislation focuses on prevention and reducing the number of opiate pills in circulation by working with doctors, insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, and pharmacists.
- 2 The bill provides for verbal screenings by a qualified and properly trained professional to ask middle and high school children about their attitudes and behaviors about drugs and alcohol to prevent further misuse of drugs and refer at-risk teens to treatment to stem the tide of the crisis.
- 3 The bill also establishes a patients right to fill their prescription for a schedule II opiate, the highest risk classification under DEA rules, in a quantity less than the full prescribed amount. This would further reduce the quantity of unused and excess drugs.

This bill was the product of collaborative effort between Senators



Senator Jennifer L. Flanagan
@JenFlanaganMA

Chair, Special Senate Committee on Opioid Addiction Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Options



Senator John F. Keenan
@SenJohnFKeenan

Chair, Senate Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets



Senator Karen E. Spilka
@KarenSpilka

Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means



This Legislation was passed on **October 5, 2015**

STATUS



Signed into Law

The Senate Special Opioid Committee first convened in January 2014 in response to the substantial increase in reported overdose emergencies and fatalities throughout communities in Massachusetts. The bill addresses many of the unmet needs in combating the opioid crisis throughout the Commonwealth.

RESPONSE



Sentinel & Enterprise

"That the Senate approved S.2022 unanimously is a clear signal Beacon Hill understands the urgency of ending the epidemic. There is not a political district in the commonwealth that has not been touched by this scourge."

Sentinel & Enterprise, Editorial

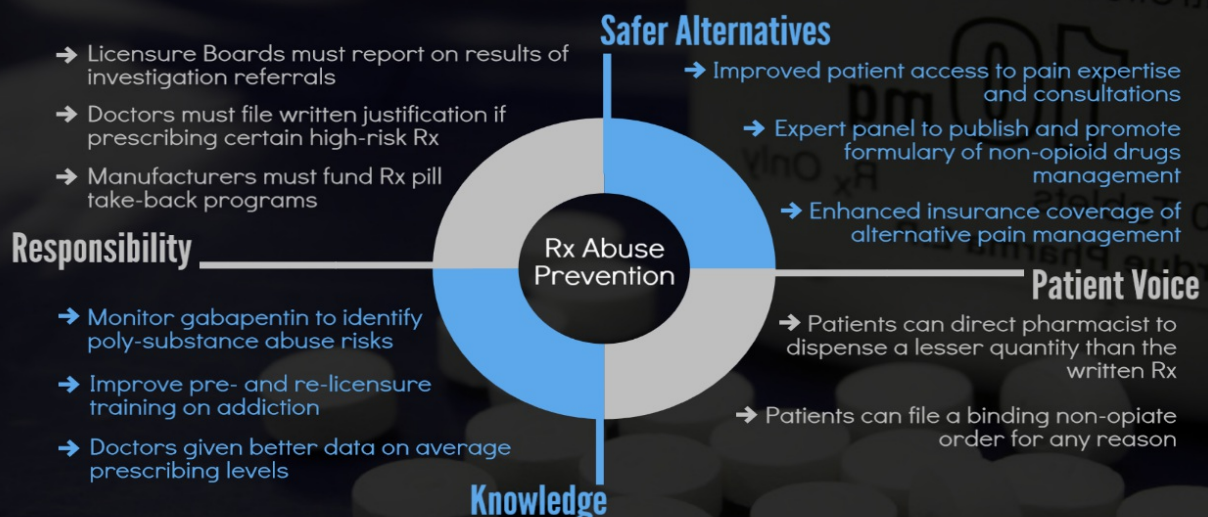
"We must offer assistance to students in our public schools while they are young, able to change their behaviors, and are not yet mentally and physically dependent on drugs and alcohol. Kids who need this kind of help will appreciate being asked honestly about their needs, and schools will be given a valuable tool in this battle against addiction."

- Senator Jennifer L. Flanagan



INFOGRAPHICS

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@SenJohnFKeenan



@JenFlanaganMA