

**Committee on Public Health
Bill Summary**

Bill No. H2420
Title: *An Act relative to preventing death by drug overdose*
Sponsor: Representative William C. Galvin
Committee: Public Health
Hearing Date: June 25, 2025
Similar Matters: None
Prior History: Refile of H2168 of 23-24; Referred to Public Health; Accompanied a study order.
Reporting Deadline: August 24, 2025

Current Law:

- **M.G.L. Chapter 111C § 18** authorizes an emergency medical technician (EMT) to restrain a patient who presents an immediate or serious threat of bodily harm to himself or others.
- **M.G.L. Chapter 94C § 19B** defines opioid antagonist as naloxone or any other drug approved by the FDA as a competitive narcotic antagonist for the reversal of overdoses caused by opioids.
- **M.G.L. Chapter 111C § 21** protects EMTs from personal liability when giving aid in the performance of their duties. This section also exempts EMTs from liability to hospitals for expenses if, under emergency conditions, they cause the admission of a person to a hospital.
- **M.G.L. Chapter 112 § 12V** protects from liability any person who attempts to render emergency care such as CPR or defibrillation and does so without compensation.
- **105 CMR 170** sets forth the regulations for the Commonwealth's Emergency Medical Services System, including requirements for the training and certification of EMS personnel. This section also requires ambulance companies and emergency first responder companies to establish policies and procedures addressing infection control.
- **105 CMR 171** sets forth the regulations relative to the training requirements of first responders, as required by M.G.L. Chapter 111§201.

Summary:

SECTION 1 of the bill would amend M.G.L. Chapter 111C§18 of and add a new Section 18A. The change to Section 18 would add language requiring a law enforcement official, at the request of the EMT, to assist in the restraint of the patient. The language would also require the use of the minimum amount of restraint necessary.

Section 1 also adds Section 18A, which requires that, if an EMT, firefighter or law enforcement official has administered an opioid agonist, the person receiving the treatment shall be transported, with or without the person's consent, by ambulance to a hospital. This section also authorizes the restraint of the person transported in accordance with section 18. Finally, the section authorizes law enforcement to search the person and immediate surroundings for any dangerous weapons if the official believes that his or her safety or of persons in the area requires.

SECTION 2 would amend M.G.L. Chapter 111C§21 by adding to the list of actions for which an EMT will be protected from personal liability the transportation, under Section 18A, of a person suffering from an apparent drug overdose.

SECTION 3 would amend M.G.L. Chapter 112§12V, the statute that protects a person from liability if he or she in good faith renders emergency care. This bill would add language protecting from liability a person who provides transport to a hospital or administers an opioid antagonist without compensation.