


Government of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Jeffrey S. DeWitt  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

**FROM:** Jeffrey S. DeWitt  
Chief Financial Officer 

**DATE:** November 16, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement - Substance Abuse and Opioid Overdose  
Prevention Emergency and Temporary Amendment Acts of 2017

**REFERENCE:** Draft prints as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on November  
14, 2017

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2018 through fiscal year 2021 budget and financial plan to implement the bills.

**Background**

Before a pharmacist can provide an opioid antagonist<sup>1</sup> to someone without a prescription, the pharmacist must complete a training program on dispensing opioid antagonists. The bills specify<sup>2</sup> that the Board of Pharmacy must review and approve each opioid antagonist training program for compliance with the law. The bills also approve one opioid antagonist training program administered through the Center for Rational Prescribing.

The bills clarify<sup>3</sup> that physicians and pharmacists are not required to dispense opioid antagonists and limit<sup>4</sup> the liability of physicians or pharmacists who in his or her professional judgement do not

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<sup>1</sup> An opioid antagonist is a drug, such as Naloxone, that is administered in the event of an opioid-related overdose.

<sup>2</sup> By amending Section 4 of An Act To relieve physicians of liability for negligent medical treatment at the scene of an accident in the District of Columbia, approved November 8, 1965 (79 Stat. 1302; D.C. Official Code § 7-404).

<sup>3</sup> Id.

<sup>4</sup> Id.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Substance Abuse and Opioid Overdose Prevention Emergency and Temporary Amendment Acts of 2017," Draft prints as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 14, 2017.

dispense or distribute opioid antagonists. The bills make<sup>5</sup> opioid antagonist prescribing and dispensing consistent with the scope of practice of physicians and pharmacists.

**Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2018 through fiscal year 2021 budget and financial plan to implement the bills. The Board of Pharmacy can implement the bills without additional resources.

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<sup>5</sup> Id.