

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

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BILL: SB 66

INTRODUCER: Senators Brodeur and Hooper

SUBJECT: Naloxone Awareness Day

DATE: January 8, 2024

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Looke</u>	<u>Brown</u>	<u>HP</u>	<b>Favorable</b>
2.	<u>Limonis-Borja</u>	<u>McVaney</u>	<u>GO</u>	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
3.	_____	_____	<u>RC</u>	_____

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## I. Summary:

SB 66 creates “Victoria’s Law” and designates June 6 of each year as “Naloxone Awareness Day.” The bill allows the Governor to issue an annual proclamation for the designation of June 6<sup>th</sup> as “Naloxone Awareness Day.” The bill encourages the Department of Health (DOH) to hold events to raise awareness of the dangers of opioid overdose and the availability and safe use of Naloxone.

The bill is not expected to impact state or local government revenues and expenditures.

The bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

## II. Present Situation:

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 2021 nearly 17,000 people in the United States died from overdosing on prescription opioids and nearly 71,000 people died from synthetic opioid overdoses.<sup>1</sup> In Florida, from January to June of 2022, nearly 4,000 people died from opioid overdoses, while fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, caused another 2,744 deaths.<sup>2</sup>

### Naloxone

Naloxone is a life-saving medicine that quickly reverses the effects of an opioid overdose. As an opioid antagonist, it works by attaching to opioid receptors to reverse and block the effect of

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Opioid Overdose*, (Aug. 23, 2023), <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/opioid-overdose.html> (last visited Dec. 6, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> Florida Department of Law Enforcement, *Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners 2022 Interim Report*, 3 (July 2023), available at <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/MEC/Publications-and-Forms/Documents/Drugs-in-Deceased-Persons/2022-Interim-Drug-Report-FINAL.aspx> (last visited Dec. 6, 2023).

opioids. In the case of an opioid overdose, an antagonist is capable of restoring normal breathing in someone whose breathing has slowed dramatically or even stopped because of the overdose.<sup>3</sup>

Naloxone is a proven medicine that is an essential tool in hospital emergency rooms and ambulance emergency kits. It reverses both heroin and opioid overdoses within minutes of its administration and can save a life if given in time.<sup>4</sup> Research shows that when naloxone and overdose education are available to community members, overdose deaths decrease in those communities.<sup>5</sup>

On March 29, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Narcan, a four-milligram Naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray, for over-the-counter, nonprescription use, ensuring that the life-saving medication is widely available without the requirement of obtaining a prescription.<sup>6</sup>

### **Victoria’s Voice Foundation**

Victoria's Voice Foundation was established in 2019 by Jackie and David Siegel after losing their 18-year-old daughter, Victoria, to an accidental drug overdose. Victoria's Voice is dedicated to providing drug prevention education and naloxone awareness, support, and resources to those affected by substance use.<sup>7</sup>

The U.S. Senate passed a joint resolution on June 6, 2023, recognizing June 6, 2023, as Naloxone Awareness Day.<sup>8</sup> The resolution promotes awareness of the life-saving drug, Naloxone, which reverses opioid overdoses and prevents deaths. It also aims to educate members of the public about the importance of recognizing the signs of overdose and equipping themselves with the life-saving antidote.<sup>9</sup>

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill contains 15 whereas clauses that detail the negative effects of the opioid epidemic in the United States.

**Section 1** provides that this act may be cited as “Victoria’s Law.”

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<sup>3</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Naloxone Drug Facts* (Jan. 2022), <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/naloxone> (last visited Dec. 6, 2023).

<sup>4</sup> John Strang et al., *Take-Home Naloxone for the Emergency Interim Management of Opioid Overdose: The Public Health Application of an Emergency Medicine*, 79(13) *Drugs* 1395-1418 (2019), available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6728289/> (last visited Dec. 6, 2023).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> The Food and Drug Administration, *FDA Approves First Over-the-Counter Naloxone Nasal Spray* (March 29, 2023), <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-over-counter-naloxone-nasal-spray> (last visited Dec. 6, 2023).

<sup>7</sup> Victoria’s Voice Foundation, *Victoria's Voice Foundation Launches First Ever National Naloxone Awareness Day on June 6 with Support from a Bipartisan Congressional Resolution*, (Jun. 6, 2023), <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/victorias-voice-foundation-launches-first-ever-national-naloxone-awareness-day-on-june-6-with-support-from-a-bipartisan-congressional-resolution-301843527.html> (last visited Dec. 6, 2023).

<sup>8</sup> S. Res. 250, 118<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2023).

<sup>9</sup> Ed Markey, *Markey, Scott Lead Bipartisan, Bicameral Resolution Designating June 6th Naloxone Awareness Day* (June 6, 2023), <https://www.markey.senate.gov/news/press-releases/markey-scott-scott-lead-bipartisan-bicameral-resolution-designating-june-6th-naloxone-awareness-day> (last visited Dec. 6, 2023).

**Section 2** creates s. 683.3342, F.S., to designate June 6 of each year as “Naloxone Awareness Day.” The section authorizes the Governor to issue an annual proclamation designating June 6 as “Naloxone Awareness Day.” The section also encourages the DOH to hold events to raise awareness of the dangers of opioid overdose and the available and safe use of Naloxone as an effective way to rapidly reverse the effects of opioid overdose.

**Section 3** provides that the bill take effect upon becoming a law.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

Not applicable. The mandate restrictions do not apply because the bill does not require counties and municipalities to spend funds, reduce counties’ or municipalities’ ability to raise revenue, or reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties and municipalities.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

#### **V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill is not expected to impact state or local government revenues and expenditures.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates section 683.3342 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:**

**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.