

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 223

PRINTER NO. 407

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 13, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Phillips-Hill

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 223 amends the Pharmacy Act by permitting EMS providers to distribute Naloxone to a caregiver of a patient who overdosed.

Senate Bill 223 defines “EMS provider” as an emergency medical services provider or, as defined in 35 Pa.C.S. §8103: an emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician, paramedic, prehospital registered nurse, prehospital physician extender, prehospital emergency medical services physician, and an individual prescribed by regulation of the Department of Health to provide specialized emergency medical services.

The bill defines “dose package” as an individually sealed package that contains naloxone or another comparable treatment regimen as determined by the Secretary of Health in a standing order to be used for the reversal of a single opioid-related overdose event.

The bill authorizes an EMS provider to dispense a dose package provided that all of the following conditions have been met:

- A standing order issued by the Secretary of Health permits the purchase of naloxone or a dose package by the public without a prescription;
- The EMS provider determines that it is appropriate to dispense a dose package to a caregiver of a patient who has experienced an opioid-related overdose event;
- The EMS provider enters the date and contents of the dose package on the back of the dose package or on another appropriate, uniformly maintained and readily retrievable record and signs the dose package or record; and
- The EMS provider provides only one dose package in an amount that conforms with the prescribed directions for use.

Senate Bill 223 makes clear that the EMS providers are under no obligation to stock the dose package or dispense the dose package to a family member, friend, or other individual.

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The bill provides that the EMS provider shall not incur any liability for not stocking the dose package or not dispensing the dose package to a family member, friend, or other individual.

The bill permits the EMS providers to bill insurance companies when they purchase/distribute dose packages of naloxone.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 223 will have no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. According to the Department of Drug and Alcohol, prices of naloxone can fluctuate between different vendors, contracts, and even the delivery method of the naloxone. However, for the intra-nasal form the state currently provides for purposes of leave behind, the department pays approximately \$35 a dose.