

**The Honorable
Brendan F. Boyle, Member**



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives

FROM: Brendan F. Boyle, Member

DATE: May 1, 2009

SUBJECT: CO-SPONSORSHIP: Mandatory Reporting of Drug Overdoses

In the near future I intend to introduce legislation that would amend Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide for the offense of failure to report a drug overdose and impose a penalty for such failures.

This bill would make it a summary offense for a physician, intern, resident, or any person in charge of any hospital, ward, or pharmacy, to fail to report a drug overdose both by telephone and in writing. The report must be made to the head of the local police department or to the Pennsylvania State Police. Under the terms of this legislation, these individuals who fail to report a drug overdose would be penalized by a \$300 fine and/or 90 days in jail.

Exceptions to the duty to report a drug overdose are also contained in the bill, and immunity is granted to the individual reporting the overdose, from civil or criminal liability by reason of complying with the measure.

Please contact Diana Marques at 787-3055 or dmarques@pahouse.net if you wish to co-sponsor this important legislation.