

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Health Code - Requiring Retail Pharmacies to Stock Opioid Antagonists]

Ordinance amending the Health Code to require each retail pharmacy in the City to stock at least two boxes of an opioid antagonist, such as naloxone, used to reverse opioid overdoses.

Amendments to Current Law

The Proposed Ordinance would create a new article in the Health Code requiring each retail pharmacy in the City to stock sufficient opioid antagonists, such as naloxone, to fulfill at least two purchases, which would typically be two boxes, of such opioid antagonists by consumers. The Proposed Ordinance would also allow a 3-day grace period for retail pharmacies to reorder two boxes. Finally, the Proposed Ordinance would provide for penalties for violations of not less than \$250 per violation and not more than \$1,000 per violation.

Background Information

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overdose deaths remain a leading cause of injury-related deaths in the United States, and the majority of overdose deaths involve opioids. Naloxone and other opioid antagonists are life-saving medications that are used to reverse a drug overdose. The availability and distribution of naloxone at pharmacies is one of the most effective ways to provide naloxone to people most likely to use it and reverse an overdose. But, naloxone at pharmacies remains largely inaccessible.

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