



SB 616 – Heroin & Opioid Prevention & Enforcement (HOPE) Act Reps. Horn & Murphy / Sens. Davis & McInnis

*Protecting families, neighborhoods & communities by giving
law enforcement authorities tools & resources to combat the opioid epidemic*



Our Health & Safety at Risk

- ✓ Every day three North Carolinians die of an opioid overdose. More land in emergency rooms or are hospitalized. It's getting worse each day.
- ✓ All across the state, prescription drugs are being diverted from legal to illegal channels, while large-scale heroin, fentanyl, and other deadly drug trafficking also occurs. Together, these illegal crimes are fueling a deadly crisis.
- ✓ Prescription drug misuse is a gateway to heroin and fentanyl abuse. Nearly 80 percent of Americans using heroin report misusing prescription opioids first, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.
- ✓ A growing number of street gangs – some from as far away as New Jersey and Chicago – operate roving prescription fraud rings that deploy homeless persons and others desperate for cash to fill hundreds of fraudulent scripts. The gangs then sell these diverted drugs on the street at a huge profit.
- ✓ Law enforcement authorities are too often hobbled by limited manpower and resources, outdated laws, and unnecessary delays in obtaining mission-critical information.



Protecting Families, Neighborhoods & Communities

The HOPE Act gives law enforcement authorities the tools and resources they need to combat the opioid epidemic. The HOPE Act:

- ✓ Protects patient safety by making it a class G felony for a first responder or home health worker to steal a patient's drugs and by making it a class E felony for any healthcare provider to steal drugs by diluting a patient's drugs or substituting a different drug for the one the patient is supposed to receive (§9).
- ✓ Creates a new criminal offense, death by distribution of a dangerous drug, to hold drug traffickers and dealers accountable when they distribute drugs that cause the death of another person (§16).
- ✓ Clarifies that our drug trafficking statutes cover trafficking in the deadly drug fentanyl (§7).
- ✓ Gives appropriate access to prescription data and records to trained investigators so they can respond to prescription fraud, Medicaid fraud, and doctor shopping. (§§8,11-14).
- ✓ Expresses the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate funding in the 2019-2020 fiscal year to allow the SBI to hire an additional special agent so that SBI is able to facilitate and coordinate the work of local drug investigators. (§15).
- ✓ Expands and strengthens the Controlled Substances Reporting System by adding data on veterinary drugs, the National Provider Identifier of the prescriber and dispenser, and the name and ID of a person receiving Schedule II or III drugs (§10).



Saving Lives

- ✓ The HOPE Act supports law enforcement's ongoing efforts to divert low-level, non-violent offenders into treatment by expressing the intent to invest \$10 million per year in community-based drug treatment and recovery services starting in 2019-2020 (§15).
- ✓ The Act empowers law enforcement officers to save lives of community members and ensure their own safety by expressing an intent to invest \$1 million per year in the opioid overdose reversal drug naloxone starting in 2019-2020 (§15).
- ✓ The Act helps get unused prescription drugs out of medicine cabinets and off the streets by expressing an intent to invest \$160,000 per year in our state drug take-back program, Safe Kids NC / Operation Medicine Drop starting in 2019-2020 (§15).