

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 511
Version:	Engrossed
Request Number:	
Author:	Bush and Pae
Date:	3/24/2021
Impact:	Please see previous summary of this measure

Research Analysis

SB 511 defines *harm-reduction services* as used in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act as programs established to reduce the spread of infectious diseases from injection drug use, reduce drug dependency and overdose deaths and increase safe recovery and disposal of used syringes and sharp waste. Providers of harm-reduction services are exempt from restrictions regarding possession of certain drug paraphernalia.

Until July 1, 2026, the measure authorizes government entities, so long as no state dollars are used; religious institutions; nonprofit organizations; for-profit companies; nongovernmental entities partnering with a government agency; and tribal governments to engage in harm-reduction services. Any entity offering such services is required to register with the State Department of Health. These entities are authorized to conduct the following activities:

- Offer referrals and resources for treatment of substance abuse disorders and medical and mental health services;
- Provide education on the risk of infectious disease transmission;
- Provide rapid testing for HIV, hepatitis C and sexually transmitted infections;
- Possess and distribute hypodermic needles, cleaning kits, test kits and opioid antagonists;
- Collect and safely dispose of hypodermic needles; and
- Rapid substance testing products used to identify or analyze the potency or toxicity of unknown substances.

The measure also requires providers of harm-reduction services to report certain information regarding their services and clients served to the Department at least quarterly and directs the State Commissioner of Health to promulgate rules to implement this act.

Prepared By: Emily McPherson

Fiscal Analysis

The measure is currently under review and impact information will be completed.

Prepared By: Mark Tygret

Other Considerations

None.

