

SENATE BILL 1173

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 18; Title 9; Title 33; Title 68 and Title 71, relative to opioid abuse. This act makes appropriations for opioid abuse block grants for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Opioid Abuse Block Grant Act."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Department" means the department of health;

(2) "Eligible entity" means a public institution of higher learning, a city, a county, a metropolitan government, or any combination thereof; and

(3) "Grant entity" means an eligible entity that receives an opioid abuse block grant.

(b) The department shall administer an opioid abuse block grant program. The department shall develop standards and guidelines for the submission of proposals for grant applications under the program and for the manner in which grant applications will be selected and approved. The amount of each grant shall be determined by the department. Total grants awarded may not exceed total moneys appropriated for the grant program.

(c) From funds available for opioid abuse block grants on September 1, 2017, the department shall distribute grants to eligible entities based on grant applications received by August 15, 2017.

(d) Block grant funds may be used to fund research, treatment, or other programs designed to combat opioid addiction. No block grant funds shall be used for salaries or other recurring expenditures.

(e) Block grants awarded to a grant entity shall be administered at the direction of the grant entity's governing body in a manner consistent with the grant entity's application.

(f) By April 1, 2018, each grant entity shall submit a written report on the use of block grant funds to the department, the finance, ways and means committees of the senate and the house of representatives, the health and welfare committee of the senate, the health committee of the house of representatives, and the directors of the office of legislative budget analysis.

(g) From excess state tax revenue over-collected in fiscal years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 and deposited in the general fund, there is appropriated the sum of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) for opioid abuse block grants as provided in this section.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.