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H.708

Introduced by Representatives Rachelson of Burlington, Cina of Burlington,
Colburn of Burlington, and Wright of Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Human services; opiate overdoses; fatality review; report

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
Commissioner of Health to conduct an examination and report on fatal opiate
overdoses in Vermont.

An act relating to the examination of fatal opiate overdoses

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. EXAMINATION AND REPORT OF FATAL OPIATE OVERDOSES

(a) The Commissioner of Health shall conduct an examination of
prescribing and treatment history, including any court-ordered treatment or
treatment within the criminal justice system, of individuals in Vermont who
experienced a fatal opiate overdose during calendar year 2017. On or before
October 1, 2018, the Commissioner shall report the results of the examination
using aggregated and de-identified data to the Senate Committee on Health and
Welfare and to the House Committee on Human Services. For each individual

1 who experienced a fatal opiate overdose during calendar year 2017, the
2 examination and report shall review:

3 (1) instances in which an individual had access to opiate prescriptions
4 from more than one provider;

5 (2) instances in which an individual had simultaneous prescriptions for
6 an opiate and a benzodiazepine or for an opiate and another drug that may
7 enhance the effects or the risks of drug abuse or overdose;

8 (3) the overall opiate prescription history for an individual, including
9 whether the individual had access to legal prescriptions for opiate drugs at the
10 time of death;

11 (4) whether an individual had previously undergone voluntary or
12 involuntary treatment for substance use or mental health disorders;

13 (5) whether an individual attempted to enter and was denied access to
14 treatment for substance use or mental health disorders;

15 (6) whether an individual had been previously treated for a substance
16 overdose; and

17 (7) whether an individual had been previously detained or incarcerated,
18 and if so, whether the individual received substance use or mental health
19 treatment during detention or incarceration.

1 (b) The Commissioner may contract with a nonprofit or educational entity
2 to conduct data analytics on the data set generated in the examination, provided
3 that all personally identifying information has been removed.

4 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on passage.