

1 S.142

2 Introduced by Senators Ram, Lyons, Benning, Bray, Campion, Clarkson,  
3 Cummings, Hardy, Hooker, Kitchel, McCormack, Nitka,  
4 Perchlik, Pollina, Sears, Sirotkin, Terenzini, Westman and  
5 White

6 Referred to Committee on Government Operations

7 Date: April 23, 2021

8 Subject: General provisions; commemoration days; Overdose Awareness Day;  
9 flag flying protocol

10 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to designate  
11 August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day.

12 An act relating to designating August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day

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

14 ~~SECTION 1. FINDINGS~~

15 The General Assembly finds:

16 (1) According to the Department of Health's Monthly Opioid Update  
17 (February 2021), in calendar year 2019, approximately 100 non-suicidal drug  
18 deaths involving opioids were recorded, 87 percent of which were fentanyl

1 ~~related, and in calendar year 2020, the number of similar deaths increased~~  
2 ~~to 134, 89 percent of which were fentanyl related.~~

3 ~~(2) According to the Department of Health's Opioids Scorecard, during~~  
4 ~~the first quarter of calendar year 2020, nearly 1,700 naloxone rescue kits were~~  
5 ~~provided to Vermonters as an overdose prevention measure.~~

6 ~~(3) In fiscal year 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention~~  
7 ~~reported 128 drug overdose cases in Vermont, and in fiscal year 2020, the~~  
8 ~~number of overdose cases increased to 146.~~

9 ~~(4) Governor Philip Scott proclaimed February 17, 2021 as Recovery~~  
10 ~~Day, demonstrating the State's commitment to supporting those with mental~~  
11 ~~illness, addictions, and co-occurring conditions.~~

12 ~~(5) Annually, Overdose Awareness Day is observed internationally on~~  
13 ~~August 31 to raise awareness of drug overdoses, to reduce the associated~~  
14 ~~stigma, and to acknowledge the grief of the families and friends of persons~~  
15 ~~who have experienced a drug overdose.~~

16 ~~(6) Designating Drug Overdose Awareness Day as a Vermont~~  
17 ~~commemorative day recognizes the importance of each person who has~~  
18 ~~experienced a drug overdose, and it reminds Vermonters that death due to a~~  
19 ~~drug overdose is preventable.~~

20 Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 378 is added to read:

21 ~~§ 378. OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY~~

1 ~~August 31 of each year is designated as Overdose Awareness Day.~~

2 Sec. 3. 1 V.S.A. 496f is added to read:

3 § 496f. FLAG PROTOCOL; OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

4 The Department of Buildings and General Services shall direct, in the flag  
5 flying protocol established in section 496d of this title, that the U.S. flag and  
6 the Vermont State flag shall each be flown at half staff, on all State-owned flag  
7 poles, on August 31 each year in observance of Overdose Awareness Day.

8 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 ~~This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.~~

*Sec. 1. FINDINGS*

*The General Assembly finds:*

*(1) According to the Department of Health's Monthly Opioid Update (February 2021), in calendar year 2019, approximately 100 nonsuicidal drug deaths involving opioids were recorded, 87 percent of which were fentanyl related, and in calendar year 2020, the number of similar deaths increased to 134, 89 percent of which were fentanyl related.*

*(2) According to the Department of Health's Opioids Scorecard, during the first quarter of calendar year 2020, nearly 1,700 naloxone rescue kits were provided to Vermonters as an overdose prevention measure.*

*(3) In fiscal year 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 128 drug overdose cases in Vermont, and in fiscal year 2020, the number of overdose cases increased to 146.*

*(4) Governor Philip Scott proclaimed February 17, 2021 as Recovery Day, demonstrating the State's commitment to supporting those with mental illness, addictions, and co-occurring conditions.*

*(5) Annually, Overdose Awareness Day is observed internationally on August 31 to raise awareness of drug overdoses, to reduce the associated stigma, and to acknowledge the grief of the families and friends of persons who have experienced a drug overdose.*

(6) Designating Drug Overdose Awareness Day as a Vermont commemorative day recognizes the importance of each person who has experienced a drug overdose, and it reminds Vermonters that death due to a drug overdose is preventable.

Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 378 is added to read:

§ 378. OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

August 31 of each year is designated as Overdose Awareness Day.

Sec. 3. 1 V.S.A. 496f is added to read:

§ 496f. FLAG PROTOCOL; OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

The Department of Buildings and General Services shall direct, in the flag flying protocol established in section 496d of this title, that the Vermont State flag shall be flown at half-staff, on all State-owned flag poles, on August 31 each year in observance of Overdose Awareness Day.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.