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California State Senate

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TWENTY-NINTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION
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SB 548 (Reyes): Overdose Death and Addiction Reduction Act

SUMMARY

SB 548 will establish a statewide goal to reduce alcohol and drug related addiction deaths by 50 percent by 2033. This bill will task the state to develop strategies and recommendations to reduce overdose death and addiction beyond 2033.

BACKGROUND

In 2023, approximately 12,710 Californians died because of fentanyl and other overdose deaths— an increase of over 160% since 2017. California's overdose death toll increased by 4% in 2023, while the number of deaths nationally declined for the first time in five years. Excessive alcohol use resulted in an additional death toll of almost 20,000.

Over 1.1 million individuals who visited a California emergency department in 2021 were diagnosed with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD). However, there is disconnect between diagnosis of SUD and getting treatment. The major drivers of this treatment gap are cost-concerns, reluctance to ask for help, and lack of awareness of how to access treatment. Without adequate treatment options and proper policy guidance from the state, California will continue to see the number of addiction related deaths climb.

A new comprehensive goal-oriented approach is needed that prioritizes access to evidence-based, low-barrier treatment for all Californians.

THIS BILL

SB 548 proposes a state goal of reducing alcohol and drug related addiction deaths by 50% by 2033.

By establishing a critical goal, the state can develop a comprehensive set of policy recommendations that address gaps in state practices and prioritizes state resources.

To develop these recommendations, SB 548 convenes a state advisory group to consider quality and performance measures to establish minimum standards for effective delivery of SUD services.

SUPPORT

California Bridge Program (Sponsor)
California Hospital Association
Church State Council
Courage California
Drug Policy Alliance
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
Smart Justice California, A Project of Tides
Advocacy
Steinberg Institute

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