

Date of Hearing: August 11, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Ken Cooley, Chair
SCR 115 (Bates) – As Amended June 9, 2022

SENATE VOTE: 37-0

SUBJECT: Drug abuse awareness.

SUMMARY: Designates the month of September 2022 as Opioid, Heroin, Fentanyl, and Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month and encourages residents to show support for opioid and prescription drug awareness. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Opioids are drugs that act on the nervous system to conceal pain. In 2020, more than 14,800,000 opioid prescriptions were written in California.
- 2) In the 12-month period ending in April 2021, overdose deaths from opioids increased to 75,673 in the United States, up from 56,064 the year before. Drug overdoses kill more people in one year than do the number of motor vehicle fatalities in the United States.
- 3) Overdoses of synthetic opioids killed nearly 4,000 residents in California in 2020, with 3,946 attributed to fentanyl, according to the most recent estimate from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the State Department of Public Health.
- 4) Fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more powerful than morphine, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- 5) Many teens and young adults first use opioids when they are prescribed to them following an injury or routine procedure like the removal of wisdom teeth. Opioid use and misuse can create brain changes that lead to addiction. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented unique challenges for people with substance use disorders and those in recovery.
- 6) Each year, a week in September is designated as national Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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