

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	Yes
VETO MESSAGE:	No
GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:	No
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HEARINGS:	No
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NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	Yes
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"Christie signs two bills aimed at substance abuse," northjersey.com, 4-29-15

"Christie in New Jersey for Goya food event, bill signing," Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey, 4-29-15

"Governor signs legislation to fight abuse, addiction," Wayne Today, 5-14-15

LAW/RWH

P.L.2015, CHAPTER 35, *approved April 29, 2015*
Assembly Committee Substitute (*First Reprint*) for
Assembly, No. 2859

1 AN ACT concerning the collection and disposal of certain drugs and
2 medications, supplementing Title 24 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. a. There is established ¹and continued¹ in the Department of
8 Law and Public Safety the “Project Medicine Drop” program,
9 which shall be administered by the Director of the Division of
10 Consumer Affairs.

11 b. The purpose of the program shall be to provide for the
12 secure collection and safe disposal of unused and expired
13 prescription drugs and other common household medications that
14 are surrendered by members of the public in accordance with the
15 program.

16 c. The director shall ¹supply, install, and maintain¹ continue to
17 maintain¹ at each participating law enforcement agency that ¹is
18 selected by the director¹ meets program participation requirements¹
19 a secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacle wherein unused
20 or expired prescription drugs and other common household
21 medications may be anonymously surrendered by members of the
22 public seven days a week, 365 days a year.

23 d. Within the limits of funds made available for purposes of the
24 program, the director shall supply and install at each participating
25 law enforcement agency that ¹is not selected by the director in
26 accordance with subsection c. of this section but that¹ agrees to
27 participate in the program on or after the effective date of P.L. ,
28 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) ¹and meets
29 program requirements¹ a secure prescription medicine drop-off
30 receptacle wherein unused or expired prescription drugs and other
31 common household medications may be anonymously surrendered
32 by members of the public seven days a week, 365 days a year.

33 e. Within the limits of funds made available for purposes of the
34 program, the director shall deploy or cause to be deployed mobile
35 secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacles wherein unused
36 or expired prescription drugs and other common household
37 medications may be anonymously surrendered by members of the
38 public. The director shall arrange for the periodic deployment of the
39 mobile receptacles by participating law enforcement agencies that

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SBA committee amendments adopted October 27, 2014.

1 are selected by the director at the times and in the places as shall be
2 determined to be necessary and appropriate to provide maximum
3 access to members of the public in all geographic regions of the
4 State.

5 f. A law enforcement agency that does not maintain or
6 otherwise have a secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacle
7 on its premises shall display, in a conspicuous location, notice
8 informing members of the public where the closest secure
9 prescription medicine drop-off receptacles are located.

10 g. ¹ The Division of Consumer Affairs shall post on its Internet
11 website a list of all secure prescription medicine drop-off locations
12 in the State. The list shall include receptacles maintained by the
13 division, as well as any receptacle located in the State that is
14 approved by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration. The
15 website shall contain locations of all receptacles, including hours of
16 operation. The website shall also contain information about mobile
17 receptacles and collection events.

18 h.¹ A person, including, but not limited to, a participating law
19 enforcement agency, pharmaceutical company, and any employee
20 thereof, shall not be liable in any civil proceeding as a result of an
21 act of commission or omission by that person arising out of and in
22 the course of participation in, or assistance with, in good faith, the
23 implementation and administration of the program established by
24 this section, including, but not limited to, the drop-off, collection,
25 and transport of unused or expired prescription drugs and other
26 common household medications and the proper and safe disposal of
27 those drugs and medications. The immunity provided by this
28 subsection shall not extend to a person who sells or attempts to sell
29 any unused or expired prescription drugs or other common
30 household medications surrendered in accordance with the program.

31 ¹**[h] i**. For purposes of this section:

32 “Law enforcement agency” means a State, county, or municipal
33 police department or force or a federal law enforcement agency or
34 other entity that is permitted to participate in the program by the
35 Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration in the
36 United States Department of Justice.

37
38 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of the “Administrative
39 Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to the
40 contrary, the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the
41 Department of Law and Public Safety may adopt immediately upon
42 filing with the Office of Administrative Law such rules and
43 regulations as the director determines to be necessary to implement
44 the “Project Medicine Drop” program established by section 1 of
45 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
46 which rules and regulations shall be effective for a period not to

1 exceed 360 days following the effective date of P.L. ,
2 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and may
3 thereafter be amended, adopted, or readopted by the director in
4 accordance with the requirements of P.L.1968, c.410.

5

6 3. This act shall take effect immediately ¹]; provided however,
7 that section 1 shall remain inoperative until the first day of the sixth
8 month next following the date of enactment¹.

9

10

11

12

13 Codifies “Project Medicine Drop” program; requires Division of
14 Consumer Affairs to maintain secure prescription medicine drop-off
15 receptacles at certain law enforcement agencies.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2859

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 10, 2014

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman TIMOTHY J. EUSTACE

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman MARLENE CARIDE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

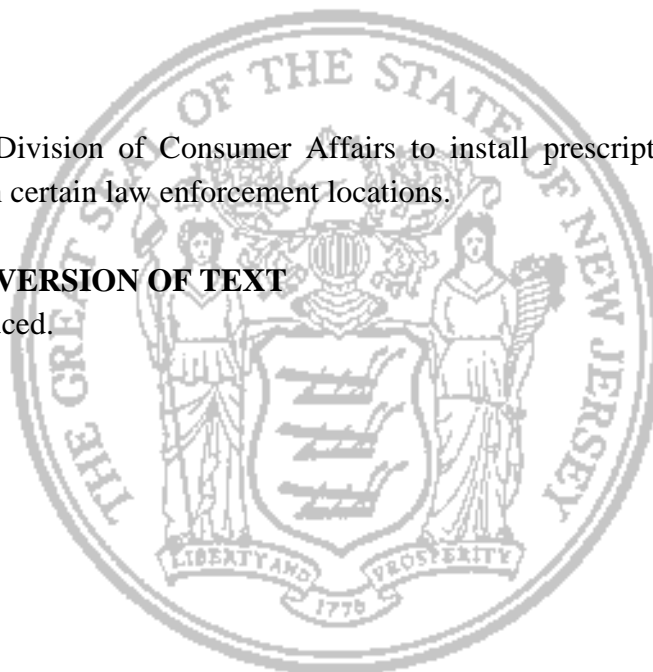
**Assemblywomen Sumter, Jimenez, Assemblyman Conaway,
Assemblywoman Pinkin, Assemblymen Wimberly, Caputo, Diegnan,
Johnson, Giblin, Wilson, Assemblywoman Mosquera, Assemblyman
Burzichelli and Assemblywoman Angelini**

SYNOPSIS

Requires Division of Consumer Affairs to install prescription medication receptacles in certain law enforcement locations.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/23/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning the disposition of unused prescription
2 medication and supplementing Title 24 of the Revised Statues.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. The Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the
8 Department of Law and Public safety shall supply and install in
9 every State Police barracks and county sheriff's department, and
10 every county police department and full-time municipal police
11 department which agrees to participate, a secure prescription
12 medicine drop-off receptacle wherein unused prescription
13 medications may be safely disposed by members of the public.
14 The receptacles shall be available to the public seven days a week.

15 b. Any police department that does not have a drop-off
16 receptacle on site shall display, in a conspicuous location, notice
17 informing the public where the closest available receptacles are
18 located.

19 c. The director shall promulgate rules and regulations pursuant
20 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
21 1 et seq.) as may be needed to effectuate the purposes of this act.

22

23 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month
24 next following enactment, except the director may take any
25 anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary
26 for the implementation of this act.

27

28

29

STATEMENT

30

31 This bill requires the Division of Consumer Affairs to supply and
32 install in every State Police barracks and county sheriff's
33 department, and every county police department and full-time
34 municipal police department which agrees to participate, a secure
35 prescription medicine drop-off receptacle where the public may
36 dispose of unused prescription medications. The receptacles are to
37 be available to the public seven days a week. The bill requires
38 police departments that do not have receptacles on site to post
39 notification advising the public where the closest receptacles are
40 located.

41 The division has developed a program called "Project Medicine
42 Drop" in an effort to combat the abuse and diversion of prescription
43 drugs. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control,
44 40 Americans die every day from an overdose caused by
45 prescription painkiller abuse. These overdoses account for more
46 deaths than overdoses of heroin and cocaine combined.
47 Additionally, in June of 2011, following a public hearing outlining
48 the changing dynamics of the criminal drug trade, the State of New

1 Jersey Commission of Investigation (SCI) found that a growing
2 number of young people are abusing prescription drugs, and noted a
3 significant trend in which the practice has led to increases, not only
4 in the number of young people addicted to painkillers, but to the
5 number of young people using heroin as well. The report issued by
6 the SCI in July of 2013, "Scenes from an Epidemic" confirms this
7 finding and notes that addiction often begins with leftover
8 prescription medicines in the home.

9 "Project Medicine Drop" has expanded so there is presently at
10 least one drop-off location in every county. This bill will expand
11 the program even further to ensure that residents of this State are
12 able to easily access secure drop-boxes within their communities in
13 order to safely dispose of their unused and potentially dangerous
14 medications.

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2859

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 8, 2014

The Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2859.

This bill requires the Division of Consumer Affairs to supply and install in every State Police barracks and county sheriff's department, and every county police department and full-time municipal police department which agrees to participate, a secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacle where the public may dispose of unused prescription medications. The receptacles are to be available to the public seven days a week. The bill requires police departments that do not have receptacles on site to post notification advising the public where the closest receptacles are located.

In an effort to combat the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs, the division developed a program called "Project Medicine Drop," under which there is presently at least one prescription medication drop-off location in every county in the State. This bill will expand the program to ensure greater access secure drop-boxes for the safe disposal of unused and potentially dangerous medications.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, No. 2859

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 2, 2014

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 2859.

The substitute formally establishes, by codifying in statute, the "Project Medicine Drop" program in the Department of Law and Public Safety to provide for the secure collection and safe disposal of unused and expired prescription drugs and other common household medications that are surrendered by members of the public.

The substitute provides for the program to be administered by the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, and requires the director to supply, install, and maintain at each participating law enforcement agency that is selected by the director a secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacle wherein unused or expired prescription drugs and other common household medications may be anonymously surrendered by members of the public seven days a week, 365 days a year.

In addition, the substitute requires the director, within the limits of funds made available for purposes of the program, to:

-- supply and install at each participating law enforcement agency that is not selected by the director but that agrees to participate in the program a secure medicine drop-off receptacle; and

-- deploy or cause to be deployed mobile secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacles, as arranged by the director, at the times and in the places the director determines to be necessary and appropriate to provide maximum access to members of the public in all geographic regions of the State.

The substitute requires law enforcement agencies that do not maintain or otherwise have a secure drop-off receptacle on premises to display notice informing the public where the closest secure receptacles are located.

The substitute grants civil immunity to certain persons participating in or providing assistance in connection with the implementation and administration of the program. The substitute specifies that this immunity does not apply to persons selling or attempting to sell surrendered drugs or medications.

The substitute authorizes the director to adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the program, and allows for the immediate filing of those rules and regulations with the Office of Administrative Law, effective for a period not to exceed 360 days following the bill's effective date.

The substitute takes effect immediately upon enactment, but provides for certain provisions providing for the establishment of the program to remain inoperative until the first day of the sixth month next following the date of enactment.

“Project Medicine Drop” is an existing program that was initiated by the Division of Consumer Affairs in 2011 to combat the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs. The program currently allows anyone to dispose of unused and expired medications anonymously, seven days a week, 365 days a year, at prescription drug “drop boxes” located within some 77 participating police departments scattered throughout the State.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services expects State and local governments to incur certain minimal costs as a result of the substitute, but lacks sufficient information to quantify the extent of the expected costs. In large part, it is unclear how many additional law enforcement agencies will agree to participate in the program, above and beyond the 77 agencies that currently participate in the existing program administered by the division.

Under the existing program, State and local governments incur certain costs to collect and dispose of unused and expired prescription drugs and other common household medications surrendered by the public. These costs include: the division's \$890 cost to purchase each secure medicine drop-off receptacle and its cost to distribute and install secure receptacles at participating agencies, and each law enforcement agency's cost to make and file quarterly reports regarding the drugs or medications surrendered as well as the agency's cost to transport surrendered drugs or medications for final disposal.

Under the existing program there is no cost to State and local governments for final disposal of surrendered drugs and medications. The division has partnered with certain waste disposal facilities where law enforcement agencies may dispose of surrendered drugs and medications free of charge.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, No. 2859
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

DATED: OCTOBER 14, 2014

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Codifies "Project Medicine Drop" program; requires Division of Consumer Affairs to maintain secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacles at certain law enforcement agencies.
- Type of Impact:** Indeterminate minimal State and local expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs; Division of State Police; and county and municipal law enforcement agencies.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost	Minimal Expenditure – See comments below		
Local Cost	Minimal Expenditure – See comments below		

- The bill requires the Division of Consumer Affairs to supply, install, and maintain in certain participating State, county, and municipal police departments, a secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacle where the public may dispose of unused prescription medications.
- The division currently administers Project Medicine Drop, a program that provides law enforcement agencies with lockable metal boxes for unused or expired prescription medications to be deposited. There is currently at least one drop-off location in every county and the program is available to the public seven days per week.
- The committee substitute “allows” but does not “mandate” participation by law enforcement agencies. Agencies without a drop-off receptacle are required to display a notice informing the public of the closest receptacle locations.
- The only cost to a participating law enforcement agency is the transport of the medications for ultimate destruction, since the division has partnered with certain facilities where law enforcement agencies may dispose of these medications free of charge.



BILL DESCRIPTION

The Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 2859 of 2014 formally establishes, by codifying in statute, the “Project Medicine Drop” program in the Department of Law and Public Safety to provide for the secure collection and safe disposal of unused and expired prescription drugs and other common household medications that are surrendered by members of the public.

The committee substitute provides for the program to be administered by the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, and requires the director to supply, install, and maintain at participating law enforcement agencies selected by the director a secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacle where members of the public may anonymously surrender unused or expired prescription drugs and other common household medications seven days per week, 365 days per year.

In addition, the director, within the limits of funds made available for purposes of the program, would be required to:

- supply and install a secure medicine drop-off receptacle at each participating law enforcement agency that is not selected by the director but that agrees to participate in the program; and

- deploy or cause to be deployed, in all geographic regions of the State, mobile secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacles, at the times and in the places the director determines to be necessary and appropriate to provide the public with maximum access to the receptacles.

Law enforcement agencies that do not maintain or otherwise have a secure drop-off receptacle on premises would be required to display a notice informing the public where the closest secure receptacles are located.

The committee substitute grants civil immunity to certain persons participating in or providing assistance in connection with the implementation and administration of the program. This immunity does not apply to persons selling or attempting to sell surrendered drugs or medications.

“Project Medicine Drop” is an existing program that was initiated by the Division of Consumer Affairs in 2011 to combat the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs. The program currently allows anyone to dispose of unused and expired medications anonymously, seven days per week, 365 days per year, at prescription drug “drop boxes” located within some 77 participating law enforcement agencies scattered throughout the State. The law enforcement agencies include State, county, or municipal police departments or forces, or federal law enforcement agencies or other entities that are permitted to participate in the program by the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration in the United States Department of Justice.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that the installation of medication drop-off receptacles in participating law enforcement agencies would result in a minimal expenditure

increase for the Division of Consumer Affairs and all participating State, county, and local law enforcement agencies.

In 2011, Project Medicine Drop began as a pilot program to allow members of the public to deposit unused or expired household pharmaceutical waste into the nearest Project Medicine Drop box, 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year. The program expanded to at least one drop-off location in every county and, as of September 2014, the Project Medicine Drop website lists 77 drop box locations throughout the State. According to informal information received from the division, the cost of each box is \$890. The division has been able to utilize current staff to deliver the boxes to police stations; however, as the number of boxes to be distributed increases, there may be additional delivery costs.

Under the program, the division provides lockable metal boxes, similar to curbside mailboxes, free of charge to the participating police departments and sheriff's offices (although the box remains the property of the division). The Project Medicine Drop program requires participating police departments to follow certain standard operating procedures, such as bolting the drop box to the floor in the direct line of sight of personnel, or cameras monitored by personnel, and keeping the box locked at all times. Participating departments are required to send quarterly reports to the division regarding the total weight in pounds of medications dropped into the box and the destruction of those medications.

The committee substitute requires the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs to only supply drop-off boxes to selected law enforcement agencies and, within the funds made available, other agencies agreeing to participate in the program. Any agency without a drop-off receptacle would be required to display a notice informing the public of the closest receptacle locations. Further, the committee substitute allows the director, within available funds, to deploy mobile secure drop boxes, which may additionally impact law enforcement agencies charged with securing collections at these non-permanent locations.

The law enforcement agencies are responsible for securing the boxes, ensuring the boxes are accessible to the public, and transporting the medications to disposal facilities. The only cost to a participating law enforcement agency is for transporting the medications for ultimate destruction. The division has entered into partnerships, at no cost to the State, with Covanta Energy ("Covanta") and Wheelabrator Gloucester County ("Wheelabrator") permitting law enforcement agencies to dispose of these medications free of charge at certain Covanta or Wheelabrator facilities. These facilities are located in Newark (Essex County), Oxford (Warren County), Rahway (Union County) and Westville (Gloucester County).

Section: Law and Public Safety

Analyst: Amy Denholtz
Senior Research Analyst

Approved: David J. Rosen
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR **ASSEMBLY, No. 2859**

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 27, 2014

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2859 (ACS), with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill, formally establishes, by codifying in statute, the “Project Medicine Drop” program in the Department of Law and Public Safety to provide for the secure collection and safe disposal of unused and expired prescription drugs and other common household medications that are surrendered by members of the public.

The bill provides for the program to be administered by the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, and requires the director to supply, install, and maintain at each participating law enforcement agency that is selected by the director a secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacle wherein unused or expired prescription drugs and other common household medications may be anonymously surrendered by members of the public seven days a week, 365 days a year.

In addition, the bill requires the director, within the limits of funds made available for purposes of the program, to:

-- supply and install at each participating law enforcement agency that is not selected by the director but that agrees to participate in the program a secure medicine drop-off receptacle; and

-- deploy or cause to be deployed mobile secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacles, as arranged by the director, at the times and in the places the director determines to be necessary and appropriate to provide maximum access to members of the public in all geographic regions of the State.

The bill requires law enforcement agencies that do not maintain or otherwise have a secure drop-off receptacle on premises to display notice informing the public where the closest secure receptacles are located.

The bill grants civil immunity to certain persons participating in or providing assistance in connection with the implementation and administration of the program. The bill specifies that this immunity

does not apply to persons selling or attempting to sell surrendered drugs or medications.

The bill authorizes the director to adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the program, and allows for the immediate filing of those rules and regulations with the Office of Administrative Law, effective for a period not to exceed 360 days following the bill's effective date.

The bill takes effect immediately upon enactment.

“Project Medicine Drop” is an existing program that was initiated by the Division of Consumer Affairs in 2011 to combat the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs. The program currently allows anyone to dispose of unused and expired medications anonymously, seven days a week, 365 days a year, at prescription drug “drop boxes” located within some 77 participating police departments scattered throughout the State.

As amended and reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2369 (SCS), as also reported by the committee.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments to the bill:

- Clarify that the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs shall continue to maintain at each participating law enforcement agency that meets program participation requirement a secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacle;
- Requires the Division of Consumer Affairs to post on its Internet website a list of all secure prescription medicine drop-off locations in the State as specified in the bill; and
- Specifies that the bill shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services expects State and local governments to incur certain minimal costs, but lacks sufficient information to quantify the extent of the expected costs. In large part, it is unclear how many additional law enforcement agencies will agree to participate in the program, above and beyond the 77 agencies that currently participate in the existing program administered by the division.

Under the existing program, State and local governments incur certain costs to collect and dispose of unused and expired prescription drugs and other common household medications surrendered by the public. These costs include: the division's \$890 cost to purchase each secure medicine drop-off receptacle and its cost to distribute and install secure receptacles at participating agencies, and each law enforcement agency's cost to make and file quarterly reports regarding the drugs or medications surrendered as well as the agency's cost to transport surrendered drugs or medications for final disposal.

Under the existing program there is no cost to State and local governments for final disposal of surrendered drugs and medications. The division has partnered with certain waste disposal facilities where law enforcement agencies may dispose of surrendered drugs and medications free of charge.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

ASSEMBLY, No. 2859

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

216th LEGISLATURE

DATED: NOVEMBER 5, 2014

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Codifies "Project Medicine Drop" program; requires Division of Consumer Affairs to maintain secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacles at certain law enforcement agencies.
- Type of Impact:** Indeterminate minimal State and local expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs; Division of State Police; and county and municipal law enforcement agencies.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost	Minimal Expenditure – See comments below		
Local Cost	Minimal Expenditure – See comments below		

- The Office of Legislative Services finds that there would be a minimal cost to requiring the Division of Consumer Affairs to supply, install, and maintain in certain participating law enforcement agencies, a secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacle where the public may dispose of unused prescription medications.
- The division currently administers Project Medicine Drop, a program that provides law enforcement agencies with lockable metal boxes for unused or expired prescription medications to be deposited. There is currently at least one drop-off location in every county and the program is available to the public seven days per week.
- The amended committee substitute “allows” but does not “mandate” participation by law enforcement agencies. Agencies without a drop-off receptacle are required to display a notice informing the public of the closest receptacle locations.

- The only cost to a participating law enforcement agency is the transport of the medications for ultimate destruction, since the division has partnered with certain facilities where law enforcement agencies may dispose of these medications free of charge.

BILL DESCRIPTION

As amended, the First Reprint to the Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 2859 of 2014 formally establishes and continues, by codifying in statute, the “Project Medicine Drop” program in the Department of Law and Public Safety to provide for the secure collection and safe disposal of unused and expired prescription drugs and other common household medications that are surrendered by members of the public.

The amended committee substitute provides for the program to be administered by the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, and requires the director to continue to maintain at each participating law enforcement agency that meets program requirements a secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacle wherein unused or expired prescription drugs and other common household medications may be anonymously surrendered by members of the public seven days per week, 365 days per year.

In addition, the director, within the limits of funds made available for purposes of the program, is required to:

-- supply and install at each law enforcement agency that agrees to participate in the program and meets program requirements a secure medicine drop-off receptacle; and

-- deploy or cause to be deployed mobile secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacles, as arranged by the director, at the times and in the places the director determines to be necessary and appropriate to provide maximum access to members of the public in all geographic regions of the State.

Law enforcement agencies that do not maintain or otherwise have a secure drop-off receptacle on premises would be required to display a notice informing the public where the closest secure receptacles are located.

The Division of Consumer Affairs would be required to post on its Internet website a list of all secure prescription medicine drop-off locations in the State. The list would include receptacles maintained by the division, as well as receptacles located in the State that are approved by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration. The website would contain locations of all receptacles, including hours of operation and information about mobile receptacles and collection events.

The amended committee substitute grants civil immunity to certain persons participating in or providing assistance in connection with the implementation and administration of the program. This immunity does not apply to persons selling or attempting to sell surrendered drugs or medications.

“Project Medicine Drop” is an existing program that was initiated by the Division of Consumer Affairs in 2011 to combat the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs. The program currently allows anyone to dispose of unused and expired medications anonymously, seven days per week, 365 days per year, at prescription drug “drop boxes” located within some 101 participating law enforcement agencies scattered throughout the State. Law enforcement agencies include State, county, or municipal police departments or forces, or federal law enforcement agencies or other entities that are permitted to participate in the program by the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration in the United States Department of Justice.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that the installation of medication drop-off receptacles in participating law enforcement agencies would result in a minimal expenditure increase for the Division of Consumer Affairs and all participating State, county, and local law enforcement agencies.

In 2011, Project Medicine Drop began as a pilot program to allow members of the public to deposit unused or expired household pharmaceutical waste into the nearest Project Medicine Drop box, 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year. The program expanded to at least one drop-off location in every county and, as of October 2014, the Project Medicine Drop website lists 101 drop box locations throughout the State. According to informal information received from the division, the cost of each box is \$890. The division has been able to utilize current staff to deliver the boxes to police stations; however, as the number of boxes to be distributed increases, there may be additional delivery costs.

Under the program, the division provides lockable metal boxes, similar to curbside mailboxes, free of charge to the participating law enforcement agencies (although the box remains the property of the division). The Project Medicine Drop program requires participating police departments to follow certain standard operating procedures, such as bolting the drop box to the floor in the direct line of sight of personnel, or cameras monitored by personnel, and keeping the box locked at all times. Participating departments are required to send quarterly reports to the division regarding the total weight in pounds of medications dropped into the box and the destruction of those medications.

The amended committee substitute requires the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs to only maintain drop-off boxes with law enforcement agencies that meet program requirements and, within the funds made available, other agencies agreeing to participate in the program and also meeting program requirements. Any agency without a drop-off receptacle would be required to display a notice informing the public of the closest receptacle locations. Further, the amended committee substitute allows the director, within available funds, to deploy mobile secure drop boxes, which may additionally impact law enforcement agencies charged with securing collections at these non-permanent locations.

The law enforcement agencies are responsible for securing the boxes, ensuring the boxes are accessible to the public, and transporting the medications to disposal facilities. The only cost to a participating law enforcement agency is for transporting the medications for ultimate destruction. The division has entered into partnerships, at no cost to the State, with Covanta Energy (“Covanta”) and Wheelabrator Gloucester County (“Wheelabrator”) permitting law enforcement agencies to dispose of these medications free of charge at certain Covanta or Wheelabrator facilities. These facilities are located in Newark (Essex County), Oxford (Warren County), Rahway (Union County) and Westville (Gloucester County).

Section: Law and Public Safety

*Analyst: Amy Denholtz
Senior Research Analyst*

*Approved: David J. Rosen
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE, No. 2369

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

Sponsored by:

Senator JIM WHELAN

District 2 (Atlantic)

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Vitale and Lesniak

SYNOPSIS

Requires Division of Consumer Affairs to install prescription medication receptacles in certain law enforcement locations.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the disposition of unused prescription
2 medication and supplementing Title 24 of the Revised Statues.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. The Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the
8 Department of Law and Public safety shall supply and install in
9 every State Police barracks and county sheriff's department, and
10 every county police department and full-time municipal police
11 department which agrees to participate, a secure prescription
12 medicine drop-off receptacle wherein unused prescription
13 medications may be safely disposed by members of the public.
14 The receptacles shall be available to the public seven days a week.

15 b. Any police department that does not have a drop-off
16 receptacle on site shall display, in a conspicuous location, notice
17 informing the public where the closest available receptacles are
18 located.

19 c. The director shall promulgate rules and regulations pursuant
20 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
21 1 et seq.) as may be needed to effectuate the purposes of this act.

22

23 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month
24 next following enactment, except the director may take any
25 anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary
26 for the implementation of this act.

27

28

29

STATEMENT

30

31 This bill requires the Division of Consumer Affairs to supply and
32 install in every State Police barracks and county sheriff's
33 department, and every county police department and full-time
34 municipal police department which agrees to participate, a secure
35 prescription medicine drop-off receptacle where the public may
36 dispose of unused prescription medications. The receptacles are to
37 be available to the public seven days a week. The bill requires
38 police departments that do not have receptacles on site to post
39 notification advising the public where the closest receptacles are
40 located.

41 The division has developed a program called "Project Medicine
42 Drop" in an effort to combat the abuse and diversion of prescription
43 drugs. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control,
44 40 Americans die every day from an overdose caused by
45 prescription painkiller abuse. These overdoses account for more
46 deaths than overdoses of heroin and cocaine combined.
47 Additionally, in June of 2011, following a public hearing outlining
48 the changing dynamics of the criminal drug trade, the State of New

1 Jersey Commission of Investigation (SCI) found that a growing
2 number of young people are abusing prescription drugs, and noted a
3 significant trend in which the practice has led to increases, not only
4 in the number of young people addicted to painkillers, but to the
5 number of young people using heroin as well. The report issued by
6 the SCI in July of 2013, "Scenes from an Epidemic" confirms this
7 finding and notes that addiction often begins with leftover
8 prescription medicines in the home.

9 "Project Medicine Drop" has expanded so there is presently at
10 least one drop-off location in every county. This bill will expand the
11 program even further to ensure that residents of this State are able
12 to easily access secure drop-boxes within their communities in
13 order to safely dispose of their unused and potentially dangerous
14 medications.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 2369

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 9, 2014

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably a Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 2369.

The substitute formally establishes and continues, by codifying in statute, the “Project Medicine Drop” program in the Department of Law and Public Safety to provide for the secure collection and safe disposal of unused and expired prescription drugs and other common household medications that are surrendered by members of the public.

The substitute provides for the program to be administered by the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, and requires the director to continue to maintain at each participating law enforcement agency that meets program requirements a secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacle wherein unused or expired prescription drugs and other common household medications may be anonymously surrendered by members of the public seven days a week, 365 days a year.

In addition, the substitute requires the director, within the limits of funds made available for purposes of the program, to:

-- supply and install at each law enforcement agency that agrees to participate in the program and meets program requirements a secure medicine drop-off receptacle; and

-- deploy or cause to be deployed mobile secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacles, as arranged by the director, at the times and in the places the director determines to be necessary and appropriate to provide maximum access to members of the public in all geographic regions of the State.

The substitute requires law enforcement agencies that do not maintain or otherwise have a secure drop-off receptacle on premises to display notice informing the public where the closest secure receptacles are located.

The substitute also requires the Division of Consumer Affairs to post on its Internet website a list of all secure prescription medicine drop-off locations in the State. The list must include receptacles maintained by the division, as well as receptacles located in the State that are approved by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

The website must contain locations of all receptacles, including hours of operation, as well as and information about mobile receptacles and collection events.

The substitute grants civil immunity to certain persons participating in or providing assistance in connection with the implementation and administration of the program. The substitute specifies that this immunity does not apply to persons selling or attempting to sell surrendered drugs or medications.

The substitute authorizes the director to adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the program, and allows for the immediate filing of those rules and regulations with the Office of Administrative Law, effective for a period not to exceed 360 days following the bill's effective date.

“Project Medicine Drop” is an existing program that was initiated by the Division of Consumer Affairs in 2011 to combat the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs. The program currently allows anyone to dispose of unused and expired medications anonymously, seven days a week, 365 days a year, at prescription drug “drop boxes” located within some 77 participating police departments scattered throughout the State.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR **SENATE, No. 2369**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 27, 2014

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2369 (SCS).

This bill formally establishes, by codifying in statute, the “Project Medicine Drop” program in the Department of Law and Public Safety to provide for the secure collection and safe disposal of unused and expired prescription drugs and other common household medications that are surrendered by members of the public.

The bill provides for the program to be administered by the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, and requires the director to supply, install, and maintain at each participating law enforcement agency that is selected by the director a secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacle wherein unused or expired prescription drugs and other common household medications may be anonymously surrendered by members of the public seven days a week, 365 days a year.

In addition, the bill requires the director, within the limits of funds made available for purposes of the program, to:

-- supply and install at each participating law enforcement agency that is not selected by the director but that agrees to participate in the program a secure medicine drop-off receptacle; and

-- deploy or cause to be deployed mobile secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacles, as arranged by the director, at the times and in the places the director determines to be necessary and appropriate to provide maximum access to members of the public in all geographic regions of the State.

The bill requires law enforcement agencies that do not maintain or otherwise have a secure drop-off receptacle on premises to display notice informing the public where the closest secure receptacles are located.

The bill grants civil immunity to certain persons participating in or providing assistance in connection with the implementation and administration of the program. The bill specifies that this immunity does not apply to persons selling or attempting to sell surrendered drugs or medications.

The bill authorizes the director to adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the program, and allows for the immediate filing of those rules and regulations with the Office of Administrative Law, effective for a period not to exceed 360 days following the bill's effective date.

The bill takes effect immediately upon enactment.

“Project Medicine Drop” is an existing program that was initiated by the Division of Consumer Affairs in 2011 to combat the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs. The program currently allows anyone to dispose of unused and expired medications anonymously, seven days a week, 365 days a year, at prescription drug “drop boxes” located within some 77 participating police departments scattered throughout the State.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2859 (ACS), as amended and reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services expects State and local governments to incur certain minimal costs, but lacks sufficient information to quantify the extent of the expected costs. In large part, it is unclear how many additional law enforcement agencies will agree to participate in the program, above and beyond the 77 agencies that currently participate in the existing program administered by the division.

Under the existing program, State and local governments incur certain costs to collect and dispose of unused and expired prescription drugs and other common household medications surrendered by the public. These costs include: the division's \$890 cost to purchase each secure medicine drop-off receptacle and its cost to distribute and install secure receptacles at participating agencies, and each law enforcement agency's cost to make and file quarterly reports regarding the drugs or medications surrendered as well as the agency's cost to transport surrendered drugs or medications for final disposal.

Under the existing program there is no cost to State and local governments for final disposal of surrendered drugs and medications. The division has partnered with certain waste disposal facilities where law enforcement agencies may dispose of surrendered drugs and medications free of charge.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 2369
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

DATED: NOVEMBER 5, 2014

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Codifies “Project Medicine Drop” program; requires Division of Consumer Affairs to maintain secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacles at certain law enforcement agencies.
- Type of Impact:** Indeterminate minimal State and local expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs; Division of State Police; and county and municipal law enforcement agencies.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost	Minimal Expenditure – See comments below		
Local Cost	Minimal Expenditure – See comments below		

- The Office of Legislative Services finds that there would be a minimal cost to requiring the Division of Consumer Affairs to supply, install, and maintain in certain participating law enforcement agencies, a secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacle where the public may dispose of unused prescription medications.
- The division currently administers “Project Medicine Drop,” a program that provides law enforcement agencies with lockable metal boxes for unused or expired prescription medications to be deposited. There is currently at least one drop-off location in every county and the program is available to the public seven days per week.
- The committee substitute “allows” but does not “mandate” participation by law enforcement agencies. Agencies without a drop-off receptacle are required to display a notice informing the public of the closest receptacle locations.

- The only cost to a participating law enforcement agency is the transport of the medications for ultimate destruction, since the division has partnered with certain facilities where law enforcement agencies may dispose of these medications free of charge.

BILL DESCRIPTION

The Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 2369 of 2014 formally establishes and continues, by codifying in statute, the “Project Medicine Drop” program in the Department of Law and Public Safety to provide for the secure collection and safe disposal of unused and expired prescription drugs and other common household medications that are surrendered by members of the public.

The committee substitute provides for the program to be administered by the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, and requires the director to continue to maintain at each participating law enforcement agency that meets program requirements a secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacle wherein unused or expired prescription drugs and other common household medications may be anonymously surrendered by members of the public seven days per week, 365 days per year.

In addition, the director, within the limits of funds made available for purposes of the program, is required to:

-- supply and install at each law enforcement agency that agrees to participate in the program and meets program requirements a secure medicine drop-off receptacle; and

-- deploy or cause to be deployed mobile secure prescription medicine drop-off receptacles, as arranged by the director, at the times and in the places the director determines to be necessary and appropriate to provide maximum access to members of the public in all geographic regions of the State.

Law enforcement agencies that do not maintain or otherwise have a secure drop-off receptacle on premises would be required to display a notice informing the public where the closest secure receptacles are located.

The Division of Consumer Affairs would be required to post on its Internet website a list of all secure prescription medicine drop-off locations in the State. The list would include receptacles maintained by the division, as well as receptacles located in the State that are approved by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration. The website would contain locations of all receptacles, including hours of operation and information about mobile receptacles and collection events.

The committee substitute grants civil immunity to certain persons participating in or providing assistance in connection with the implementation and administration of the program. This immunity does not apply to persons selling or attempting to sell surrendered drugs or medications.

“Project Medicine Drop” is an existing program that was initiated by the Division of Consumer Affairs in 2011 to combat the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs. The program currently allows anyone to dispose of unused and expired medications anonymously, seven days per week, 365 days per year, at prescription drug “drop boxes” located within some 101 participating law enforcement agencies scattered throughout the State. Law enforcement agencies include State, county, or municipal police departments or forces, or federal law enforcement agencies or other entities that are permitted to participate in the program by the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration in the United States Department of Justice.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that the installation of medication drop-off receptacles in participating law enforcement agencies would result in a minimal expenditure increase for the Division of Consumer Affairs and all participating State, county, and local law enforcement agencies.

In 2011, Project Medicine Drop began as a pilot program to allow members of the public to deposit unused or expired household pharmaceutical waste into the nearest Project Medicine Drop box, 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year. The program expanded to at least one drop-off location in every county and, as of October 2014, the Project Medicine Drop website lists 101 drop box locations throughout the State. According to informal information received from the division, the cost of each box is \$890. The division has been able to utilize current staff to deliver the boxes to police stations; however, as the number of boxes to be distributed increases, there may be additional delivery costs.

Under the program, the division provides lockable metal boxes, similar to curbside mailboxes, free of charge to the participating law enforcement agencies (although the box remains the property of the division). The Project Medicine Drop program requires participating police departments to follow certain standard operating procedures, such as bolting the drop box to the floor in the direct line of sight of personnel, or cameras monitored by personnel, and keeping the box locked at all times. Participating departments are required to send quarterly reports to the division regarding the total weight in pounds of medications dropped into the box and the destruction of those medications.

The committee substitute requires the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs to only maintain drop-off boxes with law enforcement agencies that meet program requirements and, within the funds made available, other agencies agreeing to participate in the program and also meeting program requirements. Any agency without a drop-off receptacle would be required to display a notice informing the public of the closest receptacle locations. Further, the committee substitute allows the director, within available funds, to deploy mobile secure drop boxes, which may additionally impact law enforcement agencies charged with securing collections at these non-permanent locations.

The law enforcement agencies are responsible for securing the boxes, ensuring the boxes are accessible to the public, and transporting the medications to disposal facilities. The only cost to a participating law enforcement agency is for transporting the medications for ultimate destruction. The division has entered into partnerships, at no cost to the State, with Covanta Energy (Covanta) and Wheelabrator Gloucester County (Wheelabrator) permitting law enforcement agencies to dispose of these medications free of charge at certain Covanta or Wheelabrator facilities. These facilities are located in Newark (Essex County), Oxford (Warren County), Rahway (Union County) and Westville (Gloucester County).

FE to SCS for S2369

4

Section: Law and Public Safety

*Analyst: Amy Denholtz
Senior Research Analyst*

*Approved: David J. Rosen
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

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Governor Christie Signs Legislation to Bolster Efforts to Fight Drug Abuse and Addiction in New Jersey

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Tags: [Addiction Taskforce](#)
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State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Measures Provide Stronger Tools to Help Prevent Prescription Medicine and Opioid Abuse

Trenton, NJ – Taking action to support New Jerseyans and their families faced with the disease of addiction, Governor Chris Christie today signed legislative measures to enhance the State's Project Medicine Drop program and to strengthen the Attorney General's law enforcement coordination efforts against opioid drug abuse.

"I'm proud of what we've done in New Jersey and proud of the work that we continue to do together to help people reclaim their lives. But we cannot become complacent," said Governor Christie. "Today, we are taking further action to keep our fight against drug abuse and addiction going strong. We're doing this by continuing successful programs like Project Medicine Drop to get unused prescriptions out of the medicine cabinet and into drop-off bins as well as fortifying our coordinated efforts against the scourge of opioid abuse in an effort to save more lives."

→ A-2859 advances the continuation of the Department of Law & Public Safety's (L&PS) existing Project Medicine Drop program. In addition, the bill provides for future expansion of the program at the funding discretion of the Department. Furthermore, L&PS is required to post on its website a list of all secure prescription medicine drop-off locations, including receptacles maintained by the Division of Consumer Affairs, as well as any receptacle located in New Jersey that is approved by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

Project Medicine Drop, an initiative of L&PS' Division of Consumer Affairs, provides residents with a safe and secure way to dispose of unneeded medications through "prescription drug drop boxes" located at law enforcement agencies usually comprised of police departments, sheriff's offices, and State Police barracks across the Garden State.

Currently, there are 126 Project Medicine Drop locations across the state with approximately 50 having mobile boxes for special off-site collection events. Since its creation in November 2011, New Jersey residents have dropped off approximately 53,924 pounds or nearly 27 tons of unused medications.

Primary sponsors of A-2859 include: Assemblymembers Eustace, Benson, Vainieri-Huttle Lagana, and Caride and Senators Whelan and Kean.

Governor Christie also signed S-2372, which gives the Attorney General the ability to coordinate statewide law enforcement efforts against opioid abuse in the Garden State. These coordination activities include the Division of Consumer Affairs and professional licensing boards in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting the illegal sources and distribution of prescription opioid drugs; taking appropriate steps to enhance the oversight by professional licensing boards; and providing training to law enforcement officials, physicians, and pharmacists.

Among activities already being coordinated is the implementation and training of NARCAN administration. To date, 496 law enforcement agencies have been trained in Narcan administration with 488 agencies currently carrying Narcan on patrol. Overall, nearly 900 overdoses have been reversed through successful naloxone deployment. Additionally, the state's Prescription Monitoring Program (NJMPMP) continues to advance. As of April, 88.4% of the state's 29,400 licensed doctors had registered to use the NJMPMP database.

Primary sponsors of the legislation include Senators Madden and Oroho and Assemblymembers Caride, Mosquera, Pinkin, and Moriarty.

Reclaiming Lives

Governor Christie Signs Legislation Providing Stronger Tools To Help Prevent Drug Abuse

Today Governor Christie signed legislation to enhance the State's Project Medicine Drop program and to strengthen the Attorney General's law enforcement coordination efforts against opioid drug abuse. These measures include:

- **Expanding Project Medicine Drop.** Expands the Department of Law & Public Safety's (L&PS) existing Project Medicine Drop program, and provides for future expansion of the program at the funding discretion of the Department.
- **Refine New Jersey's Law Enforcement Coordination, Training, And Prescription Drug Oversight Efforts.** Strengthens the Attorney General's ability to coordinate statewide law enforcement efforts against opioid abuse in the Garden State. These coordination activities include the Division of Consumer Affairs and professional licensing boards in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting the illegal sources and distribution of prescription opioid drugs; taking appropriate steps to enhance the oversight by professional licensing boards; and providing training to law enforcement officials, physicians, and pharmacists.

Since the start of his administration, Governor Christie has placed a spotlight on changing the conversation on drug addiction and focusing on treatment for those struggling with addiction.

Ending The Stigma Through The Facing Addiction Task Force:

In September 2014, Governor Christie and Pastor Joe A. Carter of Newark's New Hope Baptist Church hosted a summit on drug addiction. The event acted as a call to action and conversation – bringing together public leaders, treatment professionals and advocates, and survivors of drug addiction – focused on ending the stigma around drug addiction and treatment.

The following month, Governor Christie created the Facing Addiction Task Force, a 12-member team of leaders and experts from inside and outside of government chaired by Pastor Joe Carter and co-chaired by former Governor Jim McGreevey to fight addiction through treatment and prevention.

One-Stop Access To Help Ex-Offenders Battling Drug Addiction:

In this year's State of the State Address, Governor Christie announced the first initiative to be implemented under the Task Force's guidance: A groundbreaking one-stop model for connecting comprehensive services to ex-offenders re-entering society.

Based on the principle of Integrated Reintegration, the Governor announced a program designed to streamline services available to ex-offenders to ensure they receive the kind of support they need to reclaim their lives and eventually move off government services and into the workplace.

By significantly building the ex-offenders' capacity to become self-sufficient, and connecting them directly to coordinated services during the critically important period as they leave prison or drug court, the program strengthens their reintegration into the community as well as reduces long-term service costs to the State. Services involved include addiction treatment, housing, and employment services.

The program will follow the Jersey City Employment and Training Program model – which has been hailed

as a "national model" and "at the forefront of the reentry field" and coordinated by the New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC). The cities and counties participating in the program include:

- Newark / Essex County
- Paterson / Passaic County
- Atlantic City / Atlantic County
- Toms River / Ocean County
- Trenton / Mercer County
- Jersey City / Hudson County

ENDING THE FAILED WAR ON DRUGS BY PUTTING TREATMENT FIRST

A Statewide Expansion Of Drug Court:

Governor Christie has followed through on his commitment to take a smarter and more effective approach focused on treating drug-addicted offenders by signing into law landmark, bipartisan legislation to put in place a state-wide, mandatory drug court program. The legislation acts on Governor Christie's belief that no life is disposable and that it is a commonsense and moral imperative to help individuals dealing with drug addiction reclaim their lives with treatment, rather than warehousing them in prison.

- The law calls for a five-year phase in period, during which the capacity of the state's drug courts will be expanded and the effectiveness of the effort will be measured.

Governor Christie is further acting on his commitment by increasing funding by **\$8.5 million** for drug court expansion and treatment in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

- This additional funding permits the Department of Human Services to expand treatment to approximately 1,000 clients in both inpatient and outpatient facilities, providing the capacity needed to continue drug court expansion.

Drug Court Will Help New Jerseyans Turn Their Lives Around: The rate at which drug court graduates are re-arrested for new offenses is 16% and the reconviction rate is 8%.

- This is compared to re-arrest rates for drug offenders released from prison that stand at 54% with a re-conviction rate of 43%.
- An average institutional cost per inmate is approximately \$38,900, whereas the cost for an active drug court participant is roughly \$11,379.

Providing a Comprehensive Referral Source for Addiction Services:

This year, Governor Christie advances his efforts to take a smarter and more effective approach in how the State supports individuals with substance use disorders. The Fiscal Year 2016 budget provides **\$2.3 million** to create a single point of entry for individuals in crisis and their families.

- By moving away from fragmented treatment options, this newly-funded entity will improve the way the State delivers services to people with substance use disorders. Through this new management contract with Rutgers' University Behavioral Health Care, individuals who are uninsured or on Medicaid with addiction disorders will be able to more effectively access available services and resources throughout the State.

Integrating Substance Abuse Treatment With Employment Services:

Governor Christie is going further in helping those with drug addiction reclaim their lives in a permanent way, by taking the lead on an innovative initiative to integrate substance abuse treatment with

employment services like job training, skills acquisition, and job-search and placement resources.

- Research shows that integrating employment with substance abuse treatment helps secure participation in the treatment program and leads to lower rates of relapse.
- Leveraging a \$500,000 grant from the Nicholson Foundation is allowing the state to utilize up to \$500,000 in additional federal resources via the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E&T) program, for which many Drug Court participants are eligible.

Altogether, the Christie Administration and partners are devoting up to **\$1 million** towards these integrated employment services.

Expansion of Prescription Monitoring Program (NJMPMP) to Include Interstate Data-Sharing:

In October 2014, Governor Christie announced that the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program (NJMPMP) expanded its interstate data-sharing capabilities to connect with the State of Delaware's Prescription Monitoring Program. In addition, New Jersey is in the process of building a similar partnership with the State of New York.

- Since the announced expansion, NJMPMP participation has grown from **41 percent to 59 percent**.
- In April 2015, New Jersey launched the first-in-the-nation online app that allows authorized users of the state's Prescription Monitoring Program access to the database via Apple smartphones and handheld devices.

SAVING THE LIVES OF OVERDOSE VICTIMS

Signing Bipartisan Overdose Protection Act Into Law:

In May 2013, fulfilling his commitment to emphasize drug rehabilitation efforts and his different approach to dealing with drug abuse and addiction, Governor Chris Christie signed the bipartisan Overdose Protection Act into law at a drug rehabilitation center in Paterson (P.L. 2013, c. 46.). The Governor was joined at the bill signing by Jon Bon Jovi, leading drug prevention advocates and family members of individuals lost to drug overdoses.

- The legislation takes a two-prong approach to help prevent drug overdose deaths in New Jersey. First, it provides legal protection to people who are in violation of the law while they are attempting to help a drug overdose victim. Secondly, it eliminates negative legal action against health care professionals or bystanders who administer overdose antidotes in life-threatening situations.

In February 2015, Governor Christie signed an expansion of the Overdose Prevention Act, adding a provision providing immunity to first responders who administer and dispense Narcan.

Implementing A Statewide Program To Train And Equip First Responders To Save Lives:

Governor Christie announced the statewide expansion of the successful pilot program to help reduce the number of heroin-related deaths by training and equipping police officers and first responders to administer the antidote Narcan to overdose victims.

- The Christie Administration has issued a waiver to more than 28,000 certified EMTs to allow them to administer Narcan, a medication used to treat drug overdose patients in emergency situations statewide.
- Since April 2014, nearly **900 lives** have been saved through this pilot program.

HELPING NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS RECLAIM THEIR LIVES

Common-Sense Bail Reform To Bring Fairness For Non-Violent Offenders:

Governor Christie signed bipartisan reforms to New Jersey's bail system that have been in the making for two and a half years. These reforms, along with an amendment to the State constitution approved by New Jersey voters on the November 2014 ballot, will keep dangerous individuals off the streets by allowing people charged with the most serious violent crimes to be held without bail.

- In addition, the reforms will make the bail system fairer by allowing those who commit minor, nonviolent offenses to have nonmonetary options instead of being confined to jail because they simply cannot afford even low bail amounts.

Helping Inmates Reclaim Their Lives By Attending College:

Building on New Jersey's long record of innovative approaches to combating recidivism and Governor Christie's firm commitment to helping non-violent offenders reclaim their lives, a consortium of public and private universities across New Jersey are helping prison inmates attend college.

Led by Rutgers University, the New Jersey Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons Consortium (NJ-STEP) is providing access to college for qualified incarcerated students, while assisting in the transition to college life upon their release into the community.

- NJ-STEP is an innovative four-year program launched at the beginning of the 2012-13 academic year, through which prisoners in New Jersey correctional facilities can work towards the Associate and Baccalaureate degrees in Social Sciences while preparing to transition to full-time college enrollment.
- Currently, there are nearly 500 inmates participating in the program, in 6 of New Jersey's 13 State correctional facilities, with the aim of expanding over the next four years to serve 2,000 inmates in 10 facilities.
 - NJ-STEP institutions offer more than 178 classes across the facilities, and applicants for seats in classes exceeded capacity.
 - According to a May 2013 study, students admitted to Rutgers University under the STEP program perform as well or better than their peers, both academically and socially.

Funding for NJ-STEP is provided through a major, multi-year grant to Rutgers University from The Ford Foundation and The Sunshine Lady Foundation. The NJ-STEP Consortium schools work in partnership with the Department of Corrections and State Parole Board.

Building On New Jersey's Strong Record Of Combating Recidivism:

In November 2011, taking action to build on the nationally recognized success of New Jersey's prisoner re-entry, rehabilitation and prevention programs, Governor Chris Christie outlined an initiative to help even more offenders get the support they need to successfully re-enter society, break the cycle of criminality and lead productive lives.

New Jersey is widely recognized as a national leader in reducing incidents of recidivism and reducing its prison population:

- The state's 11 percent recidivism decline is among the steepest declines of any state according to the Pew Center on the States' State of Recidivism report, "The Revolving Door of America's Prisons."

- Since 1999, New Jersey's prison population has declined more than 29 percent.