



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2489

EMTs; peace officers; naloxone administration

Sponsor: Representative Carter

DPA Committee on Military Affairs and Public Safety

X Caucus and COW

House Engrossed

OVERVIEW

HB 2489 authorizes a trained emergency medical technician (EMT) or peace officer to administer an opiate antagonist to a person suffering from an opiate overdose.

HISTORY

The Medical Direction Commission (Commission) makes recommendations to the director of the Department of Health Services (DHS) regarding medical treatments, procedures, training, and techniques for all classifications of EMTs. There are four levels of EMT classification in Arizona: EMT, EMT-I99, Advanced EMT, and Paramedic. An EMT may only perform medical treatments and procedures or administer medications within the EMT's scope of practice.

Naloxone hydrochloride is an opiate antagonist which is administered to reverse the negative effects of a person who is known or suspected to be suffering from an opiate-related drug overdose. On January 29, 2015, the Commission voted to allow all EMT classifications to administer naloxone hydrochloride, pending approval by the DHS director.

PROVISIONS

1. Allows any trained EMT or peace officer, pursuant to a standing order from a licensed physician, to administer naloxone hydrochloride or another opiate antagonist approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to a person believed to be suffering from an opiate-related drug overdose.
2. Requires DHS to develop a training program for EMTs and peace officers in the detection of an opiate-related drug overdose and the use of naloxone hydrochloride and other opiate antagonists.
3. Exempts physicians who issue a standing order for and EMTs and peace officers who administer naloxone hydrochloride or another opiate antagonist approved by the FDA in good faith from civil, professional, or criminal liability.
4. Makes technical changes.

AMENDMENTS

Committee on Military Affairs and Public Safety

1. Allows nurse practitioners who are authorized to prescribe medications to issue a standing order for EMTs and peace officers to administer naloxone hydrochloride or another opiate antagonist approved by the FDA.