

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 5540

By Delegates Stephens, Toney, Sheedy, Ellington,
Barnhart, Hite, Willis, Rohrbach, and Dittman

[Introduced February 09, 2024; Referred to the
Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,
 2 designated §18-34-1, relating to mandating Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness
 3 Education, which shall be known as "Laken's Law".

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 34. LAKEN'S LAW

<u>§18-34-1.</u>	<u>Laken's</u>	<u>Law.</u>
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1 (a) The Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Education Act would help prevent overdose
 2 deaths in teens and young adults due to fentanyl and fentanyl components. This shall be
 3 accomplished through education of students in grades 6-12 in all public schools and be mandated
 4 annually using the following methods:

- 5 (1) Students will be taught about fentanyl awareness, prevention, and abuse;
- 6 (2) Students will be instructed in the life-saving use of NARCAN;
- 7 (3) Students will be instructed on the prevention of the abuse of and addiction to fentanyl;
- 8 (4) Students will be instructed on state and community resources that receive federal
 9 funding; and
- 10 (5) Students will receive health education covering the issues of substance abuse and
 11 youth substance abuse in particular.
- 12 (b) This mandatory instruction will begin in the 2024-2025 school year.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to mandate Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Education, which shall be known as "Laken's Law".

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.