

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

## 2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

### House Bill 2956

FISCAL  
NOTE

By Delegate Stephens

[Introduced February 25, 2025; referred to the  
Committee on Health and Human Resources]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-34-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, relating to expanding  
 2 Laken's Law to include grades 3 to 12 for fentanyl, heroin, and opioids awareness,  
 3 prevention, and abuse instruction.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 34. LAKEN'S LAW**

**§18-34-1. Laken's Law.**

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

5 (1) Students ~~will~~ shall be taught about fentanyl, heroin, and opioids awareness, prevention,  
 6 and abuse;

7 (2) Students ~~will~~ shall be instructed in the life-saving use of FDA-approved opioid reversal  
 8 agents;

9 (3) Students ~~will~~ shall be instructed on the prevention of the abuse of and addiction to  
 10 fentanyl;

11 (4) Students ~~will~~ shall be instructed on available state and community resources and  
 12 organizations that work to prevent and reduce youth substance use; and

13 (5) Students ~~will~~ shall receive health education covering the issues of substance abuse  
 14 and youth substance abuse in particular.

15 (b) This mandatory instruction will begin in the 2024-2025 school year.

16 (c) The mandatory instructions for the expanded instruction including grades 3-5 shall  
 17 begin in the 2025-2026 school year.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to expand "Laken's Law" or the instruction about fentanyl, heroin, and opioids awareness, prevention to grades 3-12.

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