

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

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Legislative Document

No. 2089

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S.P. 882

In Senate, January 3, 2024

**An Act to Require Schools to Provide Instruction Regarding  
Prevention of the Illegal Use of Fentanyl and Other Drugs and Drug  
Poisoning Awareness in Grades 6 to 12 and to Establish Drug  
Poisoning Awareness Week**

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.

Cosponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison and

Senators: President JACKSON of Aroostook, KEIM of Oxford, LIBBY of Cumberland, PIERCE of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, DUNPHY of Embden.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §150-V** is enacted to read:

3 **§150-V. Drug Poisoning Awareness Week**

4 The 3rd full week of October of each year is designated as Drug Poisoning Awareness  
5 Week to promote the public's awareness of the public health threat posed by the illegal use  
6 of fentanyl and its effect on the lives of citizens and their families throughout the State, as  
7 well as the effects of the illegal use of other drugs, and the Governor shall annually issue a  
8 proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe this week in schools  
9 and other suitable places with appropriate activity.

10 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4710-D** is enacted to read:

11 **§4710-D. Prevention of illegal use of fentanyl and other drugs and drug poisoning**  
12 **awareness**

13 **1. Research-based instruction.** A public or private elementary or secondary school  
14 shall annually provide not fewer than 10 hours of research-based instruction related to  
15 prevention of the illegal use of fentanyl and other drugs with a high risk of overdose and  
16 drug poisoning awareness to students in grades 6 to 12.

17 **2. Requirements.** The instruction required by subsection 1 must include:

18 A. Recognition of signs and symptoms of mental illness;

19 B. Suicide prevention;

20 C. Prevention of the illegal use of and addiction to fentanyl and other drugs with a  
21 high risk of overdose;

22 D. Awareness of local school and community resources and any processes involved in  
23 accessing those resources;

24 E. Health education that includes information about substance use and substance use  
25 disorder, including youth substance use and substance use disorder; and

26 F. Information on how to reverse an overdose.

27 **3. Provider.** The instruction required by subsection 1 may be provided by an entity  
28 or an employee or agent of an entity that is:

29 A. A public or private institution of higher education;

30 B. A community-based organization;

31 C. A religious organization; or

32 D. A local public health agency specializing in health, mental health or substance use  
33 disorder.

34 **SUMMARY**

35 This bill requires not fewer than 10 hours of instruction in a school year for grades 6  
36 to 12 regarding prevention of the illegal use of fentanyl and other drugs with a high risk of  
37 overdose and drug poisoning awareness. It also establishes the 3rd full week of October  
38 annually as Drug Poisoning Awareness Week.