

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BILL S. 1042, AN ACT IN SUPPORT OF LIFE SAVING TREATMENT

WHEREAS, Drug overdose poses a significant health crisis in Boston and Massachusetts. Between 2012 to 2022, the Boston Public Health Commission reported that drug overdose mortality associated with use of fentanyl in combination with cocaine increased by 191% in the City of Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, According to a 2020 study done by the National Institute on Drug Abuse in Massachusetts, 1 in 20 patients treated for non-fatal opioid overdose died within a year following their visit. 1 in 5 of these deaths occurred within the first month of their visit; *and*

WHEREAS, Another study funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration found that 91% of patients who suffered a non-fatal opioid overdose had opioids dispensed to them again within a year of the overdose. Within two years, many experienced another overdose; *and*

WHEREAS, It is critical that we continue to figure out solutions to prevent drug overdoses and fatalities to foster a healthier community; *and*

WHEREAS, S. 1042, *An Act in support of life saving treatment* requires that patients under court order and committed to a medical facility for an overdose be allowed to participate in the subsequent court hearing and court-ordered evaluation remotely; *and*

WHEREAS, The bill also requires patients who have suffered an overdose to receive an evaluation by a licensed social worker, a meeting with a recovery coach and navigator, and receive approval from the judge who issued the court order for civil commitment before discharge; *and*

WHEREAS, There are many studies that show that social workers and recovery coaches are effective in combating drug-related issues. According to the Addiction Technology Transfer Center, social workers and recovery coaches provide a unique perspective of compassion and personal connection which is important to helping patients recover; *and*

WHEREAS, Many other experts argue that discharge-planning and outpatient counseling are key to preventing further drug use that could be fatal. By requiring a multi-step evaluation with a licensed social worker, recovery coach, and approval by a judge before patients are discharged, this can provide the first step to recovery and be life saving for many; *and*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the Boston City Council strongly supports the passage of S. 1042, *An Act in support of life saving treatment* in the State Legislature, and urges prompt action in the passage of this legislation.

Filed on: April 9, 2025