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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 271
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Antonio

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to adopt rules for jails that are used primarily to confine inmates charged with or convicted of a crime for 120 hours or more addressing the risk of withdrawal from certain addictive substances.
- Requires a jail physician or physician servicing a jail, if an inmate is determined to be at risk of withdrawal from certain drugs and the physician determines that the drug must be discontinued, to ensure that the drug is tapered off in a specified manner and that the inmate is seen by a psychiatrist within 48 hours of admittance to the jail.
- Specifies that the act be known as Sean's Law.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Rules for jails establishing protocols related to withdrawal

The bill requires the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to adopt rules to establish protocols for jail inmates charged or convicted of any crime in Ohio or the United States who are confined for 120 hours or more who are at risk of withdrawal from benzodiazepines, alcohol, or other addictive drugs.¹ The rules must include the following:²

- Protocols to identify, monitor, and treat inmates at risk of withdrawal from benzodiazepines, alcohol, and other addictive drugs;
- Training requirements for health-trained personnel responsible for conducting a medical, dental, or mental health screening on the symptoms, consequences, and

¹ R.C. 5120.101(A) and (B).

² R.C. 5120.101(B).

treatment options for withdrawal from benzodiazepines, alcohol, and other addictive drugs;

- Requirements that health-trained personnel perform a medical, dental, and mental health screening on each inmate upon arrival at the jail and record the findings of the screening;
- Procedures for performing a medical, dental, and mental health screening that include inquiry into the inmate's use of benzodiazepines, alcohol, and other addictive drugs, the type of alcohol or drug used, the frequency and amount used, the date or time of last use, and the history of any problems after ceasing use;
- Procedures for recording the findings of a medical, dental, and mental health screening;
- Procedures for making the recordings of the findings of a medical, dental, and mental health screening available during an inspection of the jail.

Requirements of jail physician or physician servicing the jail if use of benzodiazepines is discontinued

The bill provides that, pursuant to the rules described above, if the health-trained personnel discover that an inmate is at risk of withdrawal from Xanax, Ativan, Valium, or any other benzodiazepine, and if the jail physician or physician servicing the jail determines that the benzodiazepines must be discontinued, the jail physician or physician servicing the jail must ensure that both of the following occur:³

- The benzodiazepine is tapered off in a timely and clinically appropriate manner using appropriate, less addictive medication.
- The inmate is seen by a psychiatrist within 48 hours of the inmate being admitted to the jail.

“Health-trained personnel” means any member of the jail staff who is trained in limited aspects of health care, including any correctional officers and other personnel approved by the jail physician or physician servicing the jail.⁴

Sean's Law

The bill states that the act be known as Sean's Law.⁵

³ R.C. 5120.101(C).

⁴ R.C. 5120.101(D).

⁵ Section 2.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-04-20
