

By Senator Brodeur

10-00243-24

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to Naloxone Awareness Day; providing a  
3       short title; creating s. 683.3342, F.S.; designating  
4       June 6 of each year as "Naloxone Awareness Day";  
5       authorizing the Governor to issue an annual  
6       proclamation; encouraging the Department of Health to  
7       hold events to raise awareness of the dangers of  
8       opioid overdose and the availability and safe use of  
9       naloxone as an effective way to rapidly reverse the  
10      effects of opioid overdose; providing an effective  
11      date.

12  
13       WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic continues to ravage American  
14      families across the United States, and

15       WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
16      reported more than 100,000 overdose deaths in the United States  
17      during the 12-month period that ended in February 2023, and

18       WHEREAS, most of these deaths were caused by illicit  
19      synthetic drugs like clandestinely manufactured fentanyl, often  
20      in combination with other drugs, and

21       WHEREAS, in 2021, nearly 71,000 drug overdose deaths  
22      involving synthetic opioids occurred in the United States, which  
23      was more deaths that year than from any other type of opioid,  
24      and

25       WHEREAS, synthetic-opioid-involved death rates increased by  
26      more than 22 percent from 2020 to 2021 and synthetic opioids  
27      accounted for nearly 88 percent of all opioid-involved deaths in  
28      2021, and

29       WHEREAS, by comparison, from 1999 to 2021, nearly 280,000

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30 people died in the United States from overdoses involving  
31 prescription opioids, and

32 WHEREAS, the number of drug overdose deaths involving  
33 prescription opioids in 2021 was nearly five times the number in  
34 1999, and

35 WHEREAS, in 2021, an average of 45 people died each day  
36 from a prescription opioid overdose, for a total of nearly  
37 17,000 deaths, and

38 WHEREAS, in 2021, nearly 21 percent of all opioid overdose  
39 deaths involved prescription opioids, and

40 WHEREAS, 60 percent of all opioid overdose deaths occur in  
41 the home, and

42 WHEREAS, in 67 percent of opioid overdose deaths, another  
43 person was present at the time and witnessed the death, and

44 WHEREAS, naloxone is a safe, powerful medication that can  
45 reverse opioid-related overdoses and prevent overdose deaths,  
46 and

47 WHEREAS, in 2023, in a historic action, the United States  
48 Food and Drug Administration approved the first over-the-counter  
49 naloxone nasal spray, and

50 WHEREAS, most Americans remain unaware of the safety,  
51 availability, and efficacy of naloxone as a life-saving  
52 treatment for opioid overdose, and

53 WHEREAS, the national advocacy efforts of David Siegel and  
54 Jackie Siegel are recognized as they advocate for widespread  
55 availability of naloxone through the Victoria's Voice  
56 Foundation, named in honor of their daughter, who died from an  
57 accidental overdose, NOW, THEREFORE,  
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59 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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61 Section 1. This act may be cited as "Victoria's Law."

62 Section 2. Section 683.3342, Florida Statutes, is created  
63 to read:

64 683.3342 Naloxone Awareness Day.-

65 (1) June 6 of each year is designated as "Naloxone  
66 Awareness Day."

67 (2) The Governor may issue an annual proclamation  
68 designating June 6 as "Naloxone Awareness Day."

69 (3) The Department of Health is encouraged to hold events  
70 to raise awareness of the dangers of opioid overdose and the  
71 availability and safe use of naloxone as an effective way to  
72 rapidly reverse the effects of opioid overdose.

73 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.