

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
 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,

58

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.