

About the Opiate Product Stewardship Bill

(Senate File 730 | House File 1440)

- SF # 730/HF # 1440 is the “Opioid Reform Act of 2017/Opiate Stewardship Program” that would provide important and sustainable funding to combat this national epidemic that’s killing our friends and family members.
- The term opioids and opiates may be used interchangeably.

Some of the key aspects of the bill include

- All drug distributors in our state have a licensing fee which they pay to the Board of Pharmacy allowing them to dispense drugs in Minnesota. SF730/HF 1440, adds an additional license fee solely to the manufactures of opiates to be paid annually within their existing license fee.
- This fee will be based upon the manufacture’s previous year’s opiate sales.
- Opiates vary in their potency. To determine the strength of an opiate, its potency can be measured against morphine. This common calculation is used nationally. The board shall use the morphine equivalent chart published by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention or another reputable source for calculating morphine equivalence.
- If an opiate has no commonly accepted morphine equivalent, the Board of Pharmacy shall determine its equivalence based on its knowledge and expertise.
- The fee will charge 1 cent per morphine milligram equivalent on all schedule II opiates.
- The Board shall not issue a license to a manufacture if the manufacture does not pay the licensing fee.
- The licensing fee collected will be deposited in a state special revenue fund. Money collected in the fund annually will be appropriated to the commissioner of human services to provide grants.
- The revenue generated from the licensing fee will be used to expand services for individuals addicted to opiates. A portion of the funds will be allocated for:
 - competitive grants for one or more non-profit organizations involved with expanding prescriber education, public awareness and overdose prevention program development and sustainability, to include the public and emergency medical services.
 - creating and maintaining a continuum of care from detox through sober living.
 - Supporting families, communities and all individuals in our state impacted by the disease of addiction to opiates.
- An advisory council of key stakeholders will be established to review proposals and make recommendations to the commissioner on the best use of the funds.
- By February 1, 2018, the advisory council will provide a detailed report to the legislature and the health committee chairs on the impact of the Opiate Reform Act.