



HOUSE BILL 180: Designate Overdose Awareness Day.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Health. If favorable, re-refer to State Government. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 8, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. K. Baker, Davis, Sasser, Dahle	Prepared by:	Theresa Matula
Analysis of:	First Edition		Legislative Analyst

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 180 would designate the thirty-first day of August each year as Overdose Awareness Day. The bill would become effective when it becomes law.*

CURRENT LAW: Chapter 103 of the NC General Statutes designates holidays and other special days. The days, weeks, and months below have been designated for special recognition.

Days

- G.S. 103-7 designates the first Sunday in August each year as American Family Day.
- G.S. 103-9 designates the ninth of April each year as Prisoner of War Recognition Day.
- G.S. 103-10 designates the seventh of December each year as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
- G.S. 103-13 designates the twenty-second of July of each year as Fragile X Awareness Day.
- G.S. 103-14 designates the second Monday in April of each year as Lineman Appreciation Day.
- G.S. 103-15 designates June 27 each year as Posttraumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day.

Weeks

- G.S. 103-6 designates the week in March of each year containing March 15 as Arbor Week.
- G.S. 103-8 designates the last full week in September as Indian Solidarity Week.

Months

- G.S. 103-11 designates October as Disability History and Awareness Month.
- G.S. 103-12 designates April as Organ Donation Awareness/Donate Life Month.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 180 would declare the thirty-first day of August each year as Overdose Awareness Day.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill would become effective when it becomes law

BACKGROUND: According to Overdoseday.com, August 31 is International Overdose Awareness Day. In 2020, 37 countries participated in International Overdose Awareness Day representing a slight decrease from the 39 countries in 2019, the decrease is likely attributed to the pandemic. According to the [website](#), International Overdose Awareness Day aims to raise awareness of overdose, reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths, stimulate discussion about evidence-based overdose prevention, acknowledge grief felt by families and friends; and spread the message that drug overdose is preventable. The website provides the goals of International Overdose Awareness Day as follows:

- To provide an opportunity for people to publicly mourn loved ones in a safe environment, some for the first time without feeling guilt or shame.
- To include the greatest number of people in International Overdose Awareness Day events and encourage non-denominational involvement.
- To give community members information about the issue of fatal and non-fatal overdose.
- To send a strong message to current and former people who use drugs that they are valued.

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- To stimulate discussion about overdose prevention and drug policy.
- To provide basic information on the range of support services that are available.
- To prevent and reduce drug-related harm by supporting evidence-based policy and practice.
- To inform people around the world about the risk of overdose.

According to the [National Safety Council](#), "Of the more than 72,000 preventable drug overdoses in the country in 2017, more than 47,000 involved opioids." The [NC Opioid Action Plan Data Dashboard](#), reports that more than 14,000 people lost their lives between 1999-2018 due to unintentional opioid overdose.