HOUSE BILL 35:
Expand Definition of Opioid Antagonist.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House Health. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	**Date:**	February 14, 2023
Introduced by:	Reps. Sasser, Potts, Lambeth, Paré	**Prepared by:**	Jessica Boney Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: House Bill 35 would broaden the definition of opioid antagonist to mean all opioid antagonists approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") to treat drug overdoses, instead of only naloxone hydrochloride, and would allow State Needle and Hypodermic Syringe Exchange Programs to use FDA approved opioid antagonists.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1 would amend the definition of opioid antagonist found in G.S. 90-12.7 (Treatment of overdose with opioid antagonist; immunity) to include all opioid antagonists approved by the FDA, instead of only naloxone hydrochloride.

Section 2 would make conforming changes to G.S. 90-113.27 (Authorization of needle and hypodermic syringe exchange programs) by replacing "naloxone hydrochloride" with "opioid antagonist" and replacing “naloxone kits” with “opioid antagonist kits”. The conforming changes would allow Needle and Hypodermic Syringe Exchange Programs to use all FDA approved opioid antagonists.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would be effective when it became law.

BACKGROUND: The FDA approved Nalmefene HCI Injection, 2mg/2mL (1mg/1mL), for the treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose with natural or synthetic opioids in February of 2022.

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