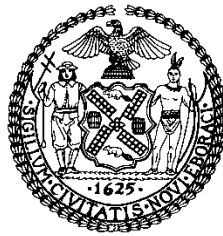


Health Committee Staff:
Lacey Clarke, Counsel
Joseph Mancino, Policy Analyst
Pamela Corbett, Finance Analyst

Mental Health Committee Staff:
Jennifer Wilcox, Counsel
Michael Benjamin, Policy Analyst
Pamela Corbett, Finance Analyst

Drug Abuse Subcommittee Staff:
Matthew Carlin, Counsel
Joseph Mancino, Policy Analyst
Pamela Corbett, Finance Analyst



THE COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

Robert Newman, Legislative Director

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hon. Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Chair

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION, ALCOHOLISM, DRUG ABUSE AND DISABILITY SERVICES

Hon. G. Oliver Koppell, Chair

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DRUG ABUSE

Hon. Ruben Wills, Chair

February 16, 2012

PRECONSIDERED RES. NO. ___ :

By Council Members Nelson, Arroyo, the Speaker (Council Member Quinn), Koppell and Wills.

TITLE:

Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign the Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing Act (A.8320/S.5720), legislation that would create an online database to report and track the prescription and dispensing of certain controlled substances.

INTRODUCTION

On February 16, 2012, the Committee on Health, chaired by Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo, the Committee on Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Alcoholism, Drug Abuse and Disability Services, chaired by Council Member G. Oliver Koppell, and the Subcommittee on Drug Abuse, chaired by Council Member Ruben Wills, will conduct a joint hearing on Preconsidered Res. No. ____, calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign the Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing Act (A.8320/S.5720), legislation that would create an online database to report and track the prescription and dispensing of certain controlled substances. Representatives from the Office of the New York State Attorney General, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (“DOHMH”), advocates and other concerned members of the community have been invited to testify.

PRECONSIDERED RES NO. ____

Preconsidered Res. No. ____ would indicate that New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman (D-NY) submitted a program bill to the State Legislature which would create the Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing Act (I-STOP). The Preconsidered Resolution would state that Attorney General Schneiderman has called for the New York State Legislature to pass A.8320/S.5720, legislation introduced by Assembly Member Michael Cusick (D-Staten Island) and Senator Andrew Lanza (R-Staten Island) that would create an online database to report and track the prescription and dispensing of certain controlled substances. The Preconsidered Resolution would note that according to a report issued by the Attorney General that describes I-STOP, this legislation would provide health care practitioners and pharmacists with critical information to prevent over-prescribing, shut down illegal drug trafficking, and

identify and treat patients who abuse prescription drugs. The Preconsidered Resolution would also indicate that practitioners and pharmacists would be required to consult the database before prescribing or dispensing a Schedule II, III, IV or V controlled drug. The Preconsidered Resolution would also note that conferring with the database would allow pharmacists to ensure that the medication is “medically necessary” and ensure that the patient is not an addict or habitual user. The Preconsidered Resolution would state that currently, prescription drug monitoring programs operate in 43 states throughout the country, and would note that this legislation would provide New York State with another tool to combat the prescription drug abuse epidemic.

Preconsidered Res. No. ____ would state that prescription drug abuse is a serious threat to the public health of all New Yorkers. The Preconsidered Resolution would note that individuals can abuse prescription drugs when they take medication in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or without a prescription for the medication. The Preconsidered Resolution would further state that prescription drugs come in many categories, including opioid painkillers, anti-anxiety drugs and tranquilizers, sedatives and stimulants. The Preconsidered Resolution would indicate that according to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), approximately one out of seven New York City adults has misused prescription drugs.

Preconsidered Res. No. ____ would state that from 2008 to 2009, 263,000 New Yorkers twelve and older reported non-medical use of prescription opioids, a 40 percent increase from 2002 to 2003. The Preconsidered Resolution would indicate that DOHMH reports that oxycodone and hydrocodone were the most commonly prescribed prescription pain medication in New York City in 2008 to 2009, with approximately 900,000 oxycodone prescriptions and more than 825,000 hydrocodone prescriptions filled in 2009. The Preconsidered Resolution

would note that DOHMH warns that the misuse of prescription drugs can be as dangerous as illicit drugs. The Preconsidered Resolution would also state that individuals can suffer serious effects from abusing prescription drugs including seizures, organ damage, heart problems, hallucinations and accidental overdose. The Preconsidered Resolution would also note that accidental drug overdose is the third leading cause of death among New Yorkers between the ages of 25 to 34, and in 2008, 22 percent of these accidental overdoses involved prescription drugs.

Preconsidered Res. No. ___ would state that while this problem affects all of New York City, prescription drug abuse is especially prevalent in the borough of Staten Island, where the rate of unintentional prescription pain medication death increased by 147 percent from 2005 to 2009. The Preconsidered Resolution would indicate that due to the growing concern and effect of prescription drug abuse in New York City, Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced a prescription drug abuse task force in December 2011. The Preconsidered Resolution would note that this problem is not limited to New York City, and that in June 2011 David Laffer entered a pharmacy in Medford, Long Island, with the intention to rob the pharmacy of its prescription drugs. The Preconsidered Resolution would also state that David Laffer killed four people and was subsequently sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Preconsidered Res. No. ___ would note that given the significant public safety and health risk associated with prescription drugs, government must take affirmative action to keep New Yorkers safe. Finally, Preconsidered Res. No. ___ would call upon the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign the Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing Act (A.8320/S.5720), legislation that would create an online database to report and track the prescription and dispensing of certain controlled substances.

Preconsidered Res. No. ____

Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign the Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing Act (A.8320/S.5720), legislation that would create an online database to report and track the prescription and dispensing of certain controlled substances.

By Council Members Nelson, Arroyo, the Speaker (Council Member Quinn), Koppell and Wills

Whereas, New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman (D-NY) submitted a program bill to the State Legislature which would create the Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing Act (I-STOP); and

Whereas, Attorney General Schneiderman has called for the New York State Legislature to pass A.8320/S.5720, legislation introduced by Assembly Member Michael Cusick (D-Staten Island) and Senator Andrew Lanza (R-Staten Island) that would create an online database to report and track the prescription and dispensing of certain controlled substances; and

Whereas, According to a report issued by the Attorney General that describes I-STOP, this legislation would provide health care practitioners and pharmacists with critical information to prevent over-prescribing, shut down illegal drug trafficking, and identify and treat patients who abuse prescription drugs; and

Whereas, Practitioners and pharmacists would be required to consult the database before prescribing or dispensing a Schedule II, III, IV or V controlled drug; and

Whereas, Conferring with the database would allow pharmacists to ensure that the medication is “medically necessary” and ensure that the patient is not an addict or habitual user; and

Whereas, Currently, prescription drug monitoring programs operate in 43 states throughout the country; and

Whereas, This legislation would provide New York State with another tool to combat the prescription drug abuse epidemic; and

Whereas, Prescription drug abuse is a serious threat to the public health of all New Yorkers; and

Whereas, Individuals can abuse prescription drugs when they take medication in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or without a prescription for the medication; and

Whereas, Prescription drugs come in many categories, including opioid painkillers, anti-anxiety drugs and tranquilizers, sedatives and stimulants; and

Whereas, According to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), approximately one out of seven New York City adults has misused prescription drugs; and

Whereas, From 2008 to 2009, 263,000 New Yorkers twelve and older reported non-medical use of prescription opioids, a 40 percent increase from 2002 to 2003; and

Whereas, DOHMH reports that oxycodone and hydrocodone were the most commonly prescribed prescription pain medication in New York City in 2008 to 2009, with approximately 900,000 oxycodone prescriptions and more than 825,000 hydrocodone prescriptions filled in 2009; and

Whereas, DOHMH warns that the misuse of prescription drugs can be as dangerous as illicit drugs; and

Whereas, Individuals can suffer serious effects from abusing prescription drugs including seizures, organ damage, heart problems, hallucinations and accidental overdose; and

Whereas, Accidental drug overdose is the third leading cause of death among New Yorkers between the ages of 25 to 34, and in 2008, 22 percent of these accidental overdoses involved prescription drugs; and

Whereas, While this problem affects all of New York City, prescription drug abuse is especially prevalent in the borough of Staten Island, where the rate of unintentional prescription pain medication death increased by 147 percent from 2005 to 2009; and

Whereas, Due to the growing concern and effect of prescription drug abuse in New York City, Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced a prescription drug abuse task force in December 2011; and

Whereas, This problem is not limited to New York City- in June 2011, David Laffer entered a pharmacy in Medford, Long Island, with the intention to rob the pharmacy of its prescription drugs; and

Whereas, David Laffer killed four people and was subsequently sentenced to life in prison without parole; and

Whereas, Given the significant public safety and health risk associated with prescription drugs, government must take affirmative action to keep New Yorkers safe; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign the Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing Act (A.8320/S.5720), legislation that would create an online database to report and track the prescription and dispensing of certain controlled substances.

JM
LS# 3239
2/9/12- 4:45 PM