As Introduced

133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
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S. B. No. 271

Senator Antonio

Cosponsors: Senators Craig, Fedor, Maharath, O'Brien, Sykes, Thomas, Williams, Yuko

A BILL

To enact section 5120.101 of the Revised Code to enact Sean's Law to establish rules and procedures for an inmate who is found to be at risk of withdrawal from benzodiazepines, alcohol, and other addictive drugs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 5120.101 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 5120.101. (A) This section applies to a jail that is used primarily to confine inmates charged with or convicted of any crime in this state or under the laws of the United States for one hundred twenty hours or more.

(B) The department of rehabilitation and correction shall adopt rules under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to establish protocols for inmates who are at risk of withdrawal from benzodiazepines, alcohol, and other addictive drugs. The rules shall include all of the following:

(1) Protocols to identify, monitor, and treat inmates at
risk of withdrawal from benzodiazepines, alcohol, and other addictive drugs;

(2) Training requirements for health-trained personnel responsible for conducting a medical, dental, or mental health screening on the symptoms, consequences, and treatment options for withdrawal from benzodiazepines, alcohol, and other addictive drugs;

(3) Requirements that health-trained personnel perform a medical, dental, and mental health screening on each inmate upon arrival at the jail and record the findings of the screening;

(4) Procedures for performing a medical, dental, and mental health screening that include inquiry into the inmate's use of benzodiazepines, alcohol, and other addictive drugs, the type of alcohol or drug used, the frequency and amount used, the date or time of last use, and the history of any problems after ceasing use;

(5) Procedures for recording the findings of a medical, dental, and mental health screening;

(6) Procedures for making the recordings of the findings of a medical, dental, and mental health screening available during an inspection of the jail.

(C) Pursuant to the rules adopted under division (B) of this section, if the health-trained personnel discover that an inmate is at risk of withdrawal from xanax, ativan, valium, or any other benzodiazepine, and if the jail physician or physician servicing the jail determines that the benzodiazepine shall be discontinued, the jail physician or physician servicing the jail shall ensure that both of the following occur:

(1) The benzodiazepine is tapered off in a timely and
clinically appropriate manner using appropriate, less addictive medication.

(2) The inmate is seen by a psychiatrist within forty-eight hours of the inmate being admitted to the jail.

(D) As used in this section, "health-trained personnel" means any member of the jail staff who is trained in limited aspects of health care, including any correctional officers and other personnel approved by the jail physician or physician servicing the jail.

Section 2. This act shall be known as "Sean's Law."