

**House File 584 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 584  
BY LOHSE

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the opioid settlement fund, establishing  
2 the opioid epidemic response advisory council, making  
3 appropriations, and including effective date provisions.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **123B.1 Opioid epidemic response**  
2 **advisory council.**

3 1. a. The opioid epidemic response advisory council is  
4 established to develop and implement a comprehensive and  
5 effective statewide effort to address the opioid addiction and  
6 overdose epidemic in Iowa. The council shall consist of the  
7 following members, appointed by the director of the department of  
8 health and human services, except as otherwise provided:

9 (1) One member appointed by the board of pharmacy.

10 (2) One member who is a physician and surgeon or osteopathic  
11 physician and surgeon appointed by the Iowa medical association.

12 (3) One member who represents an opioid treatment program,  
13 sober living program, or substance use disorder program.

14 (4) One member appointed by the Iowa association of addiction  
15 professionals who is a psychiatrist specializing in the treatment  
16 of addiction.

17 (5) One member appointed by the Iowa emergency medical  
18 services association who is serving with an ambulance service as  
19 an emergency medical care provider.

20 (6) One member who represents the Iowa courts who is a judge.

21 (7) One member appointed by the director of the office of  
22 drug control policy.

23 (8) One member who represents a local health department.

24 (9) The directors of the departments of health and human  
25 services and corrections, the attorney general, and the state  
26 public defender, or their designees, who shall serve as ex  
27 officio, nonvoting members.

28 b. The director of the department of health and human  
29 services shall coordinate the director's appointments to provide,  
30 to the extent practicable, geographic, racial, and gender  
31 diversity.

32 c. The council shall annually elect a chair.

33 d. The chair shall convene the council at least quarterly,  
34 and the chair may convene the council at other times as  
35 necessary. The chair shall convene meetings at different

1 locations in the state to provide geographic access and may  
2 conduct all meetings, other than one meeting per year, remotely  
3 by electronic means.

4 e. The department of health and human services shall provide  
5 staffing and administrative support to the council.

6 f. The director of the department of health and human  
7 services shall convene the first meeting of the council no later  
8 than September 1, 2025.

9 g. An advisory council member shall disclose to the council,  
10 refrain from participating in discussions, and abstain from  
11 voting on any matter before the council if the member has a  
12 conflict of interest. For the purposes of this paragraph,  
13 a conflict of interest is a financial association that has  
14 the potential to bias or have the appearance of biasing a  
15 council member's decision related to council activities under  
16 this chapter.

17 2. The council shall focus on all of the following:

18 a. Primary prevention, secondary prevention, early  
19 intervention, and education, including public education and  
20 awareness for adults and youth, prescriber education, the  
21 development and sustainability of opioid overdose prevention and  
22 education programs, and the role of adult protective services in  
23 prevention and response.

24 b. Training on the treatment of opioid addiction, including  
25 the use of all approved opioid addiction medications,  
26 detoxification, relapse prevention, patient assessment,  
27 individual treatment planning, counseling, recovery supports,  
28 diversion control, local reporting, and other best practices.

29 c. The expansion and enhancement of a continuum of  
30 care for opioid-related substance use disorders, including  
31 primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, recovery, and  
32 aftercare services.

33 d. Supporting efforts to prevent or reduce deaths from  
34 opioid overdoses or other opioid-related harms, including through  
35 increasing the availability or distribution of naloxone or other

1 opioid antagonists for use by a family member, friend, caregiver,  
2 health care provider, employee of a substance abuse treatment  
3 facility, school employee, or other person who may be in a  
4 place to render aid to a person at risk of experiencing an  
5 opioid-related overdose.

6 3. The council shall do all of the following:

7 a. Review local, state, and federal initiatives and  
8 activities related to education, prevention, treatment, and  
9 services for individuals and families experiencing and affected  
10 by opioid use disorder.

11 b. Establish priorities to address the state's opioid  
12 epidemic for the purposes of recommending initiatives to fund.

13 c. Recommend to the general assembly specific projects and  
14 initiatives to be funded. The council shall not recommend grants  
15 in excess of the balance of the opioid settlement fund.

16 d. Ensure that available funding is allocated to align with  
17 other local, state, and federal funding to achieve the greatest  
18 impact and ensure a coordinated state effort.

19 e. Consult with the directors of the departments of health  
20 and human services and management to develop measurable outcomes  
21 to determine the effectiveness of funds allocated.

22 f. Develop recommendations for an administrative and  
23 organizational framework for the allocation, on a sustainable  
24 and ongoing basis, of moneys deposited in the opioid settlement  
25 fund created pursuant to section 12.51 in order to address the  
26 opioid abuse and overdose epidemic in Iowa and the areas of focus  
27 specified in subsection 2.

28 4. The council, in consultation with the director of the  
29 department of health and human services, shall select from the  
30 projects awarded grants pursuant to section 123B.2, projects that  
31 include promising practices or theory-based activities for which  
32 the director of the department of health and human services  
33 shall conduct additional research and experimental evaluation. A  
34 project selected pursuant to this subsection must be administered  
35 to support the research and experimental evaluation, and the

1 grantee must collect and report information that is needed to  
2 complete the research and experimental evaluation.

3 5. The council, in consultation with the directors of the  
4 departments of health and human services and public safety, shall  
5 establish goals related to addressing the opioid epidemic and  
6 determine a baseline against which progress shall be monitored  
7 and set measurable outcomes, including benchmarks. The goals  
8 established must include goals for prevention and public health,  
9 access to treatment, and multigenerational impacts. The council  
10 shall use existing measures and data collection systems to  
11 determine baseline data against which progress shall be measured.  
12 The council shall include the proposed goals, the measurable  
13 outcomes, and proposed benchmarks in the council's initial report  
14 to the general assembly pursuant to section 123B.3, subsection 1.

15 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **123B.2 Opioid epidemic response**  
16 **grants.**

17 1. The general assembly shall award grants of no more than  
18 five hundred thousand dollars from the opioid settlement fund  
19 created pursuant to section 12.51 to proposals selected by  
20 the advisory council that address the priorities identified in  
21 section 123B.1, subsection 2. No more than three percent of each  
22 grant awarded shall be used by a grantee for administration.

23 2. The chairperson of the opioid epidemic response advisory  
24 council shall submit a report of the grants awarded, and proposed  
25 to be awarded, for the upcoming fiscal year by the advisory  
26 council to the general assembly by December 1, 2026, and annually  
27 by December 1 thereafter.

28 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **123B.3 Opioid epidemic response**  
29 **advisory council — reports.**

30 1. The opioid epidemic response advisory council shall  
31 annually submit a report to the general assembly by January  
32 31, regarding individual projects that received grants and the  
33 overall role of the project in addressing the opioid addiction  
34 and overdose epidemic in Iowa. The report shall describe the  
35 grantees and the activities implemented, along with measurable

1 outcomes as determined by the council in consultation with  
2 the director of the department of health and human services.  
3 At a minimum, the report shall include information about the  
4 number of individuals who received information or treatment,  
5 the outcomes individuals achieved and demographic information  
6 about the individuals participating in the project; an assessment  
7 of the progress toward achieving statewide access to qualified  
8 providers and comprehensive treatment and recovery services; and  
9 an update on the evaluations implemented by the director of  
10 the department of health and human services for the promising  
11 practices and theory-based projects that receive funding.

12 2. The director of the department of health and human  
13 services, in consultation with the opioid epidemic response  
14 advisory council, shall report to the general assembly when  
15 an evaluation described in section 123B.1, subsection 4, is  
16 complete. The report shall include demographic information;  
17 outcome information for the individuals in the program; the  
18 results of the program in promoting recovery, employment,  
19 and family reunification; reducing involvement in the criminal  
20 justice system; and other relevant outcomes. The report shall  
21 include information about the ability of grant programs to be  
22 scaled to achieve statewide results.

23 3. The opioid epidemic response advisory council, in  
24 its annual report due by January 31, 2031, shall include  
25 recommendations on whether appropriations and grants pursuant  
26 to this chapter should be continued, adjusted, or discontinued,  
27 whether funding should be appropriated for other purposes related  
28 to opioid abuse prevention, and on the appropriate level of  
29 funding for existing and new uses.

30 **Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 123B.4 Standing appropriation.**

31 There is appropriated annually from the opioid settlement fund  
32 created pursuant to section 12.51 to the department of health  
33 and human services two hundred forty-nine thousand dollars for  
34 the provision of administrative services to the opioid epidemic  
35 response advisory council and for the administration of grants

1 awarded pursuant to section 123B.2.

2 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
3 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

4 EXPLANATION

5 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
6 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

7 This bill relates to the opioid settlement fund and  
8 establishes the opioid epidemic response advisory council  
9 (advisory council).

10 The bill instructs the advisory council to focus on  
11 matters relating to opioid addiction and overdoses, governmental  
12 responses to opioid addiction and overdoses, and providing  
13 metrics by which such responses can be measured. The bill  
14 provides specific membership requirements for the advisory  
15 council and requires the department of health and human services  
16 (department) to provide staffing and administrative support to  
17 the advisory council.

18 The bill requires the advisory council to identify projects  
19 related to opioid addiction and overdoses that should be awarded  
20 grants from the opioid settlement fund and opioid settlement  
21 future fund. The general assembly shall then award grants to  
22 the projects that address the priorities identified in the bill.  
23 From among those projects awarded grants, the bill requires the  
24 advisory council to identify projects that include promising  
25 practices or theory-based activities for which the director of  
26 the department shall conduct additional research and experimental  
27 evaluation.

28 The bill requires the chairperson of the advisory council  
29 to annually report to the general assembly regarding grants  
30 proposed by the advisory council and awarded by the general  
31 assembly and the advisory council and the director of the  
32 department of management to annually report to the general  
33 assembly regarding the efficacy of individual projects and the  
34 progress made with respect to the benchmarks established by the  
35 advisory council. The annual report due to be submitted by the

1 advisory council by January 31, 2031, shall include the advisory  
2 council's recommendations regarding the continuation of grants  
3 and appropriations from the opioid settlement fund.

4 The bill appropriates \$249,000 to the department annually from  
5 the opioid settlement fund for the provision of administrative  
6 services to the advisory council and for the administration of  
7 awarded grants.

8 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

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