



SPONSOR: Sen. Hansen & Sen. Townsend & Sen. Walsh
Sens. Bonini, Ennis, Hocker, Lopez, Poore, Sturgeon,
Wilson; Reps. Baumbach, Bentz, Briggs King, Heffernan,
Hensley, K. Johnson, Morrison, Osienski, Michael Smith,
K. Williams

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

DESIGNATING AUGUST 31, 2021, AS "INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY" IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day was launched as a global effort to provide people with the
2 opportunity to mourn loved ones in public without feeling guilt, to provide information about overdose prevention and drug
3 policy, and to reduce the stigmas related to substance abuse disorders; and

4 WHEREAS, in the United States, opioid-related deaths have risen dramatically since the 1990's and now account
5 for 136 people dying each day from an overdose; and

6 WHEREAS, since 2013, the "third wave" of overdose deaths were attributed to the use of synthetic opioids,
7 including illicitly manufactured fentanyl, which continues to be found in combination with drugs such as heroin, counterfeit
8 pills, and cocaine; and

9 WHEREAS, North America continues to experience the highest drug-related mortality rate in the world and an
10 estimated 2.1 million people in the United States struggle with an opioid use disorder; and

11 WHEREAS, Delaware has the second highest rate of overdose deaths per 100,000 people, in the United States;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the recognition of opioid overdose in the State, and how policy initiatives, educational efforts, and
14 access to services are life-saving measures; and

15 WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day symbolizes the global event of acknowledging the grief held
16 by families and friends as well as raising awareness about the needs of individuals struggling with substance-abuse
17 disorders.

18 NOW, THEREFORE:

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the 151st General Assembly of the State of
20 Delaware, with the approval of the Governor, that August 31, 2021, is designated as "International Overdose Awareness
21 Day" in the State of Delaware.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State flag is to be lowered to half-staff at State facilities. Local
23 governments, businesses, and Delawareans are encouraged to do the same.

SYNOPSIS

This Senate Joint Resolution designates August 31, 2021 as "International Overdose Awareness Day" in the State of Delaware and directs the State flag to be lowered to half-staff at State facilities and encourages local governments, businesses, and Delawareans to do the same.

Author: Senator Hansen