

As Introduced

**129th General Assembly
Regular Session
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H. B. No. 249

Representative Boyd

Cosponsors: Representatives Letson, Pillich, Murray, Antonio

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A B I L L

To enact section 5120.101 of the Revised Code to 1
require health-trained personnel to perform a 2
medical, dental, and mental health screening on 3
each inmate upon arrival at a jail, to establish 4
procedures that health-trained personnel must 5
follow if an inmate is taking xanax, ativan, 6
valium, or any other benzodiazepine, and to 7
provide that the sheriff ensure that 8
health-trained personnel responsible for medical, 9
dental, and mental health screening be trained as 10
to symptoms and consequences of withdrawal from 11
addictive drugs. 12

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

Section 1. That section 5120.101 of the Revised Code be 13
enacted to read as follows: 14

Sec. 5120.101. (A) This section applies to a jail that is 15
used primarily to confine inmates charged with or convicted of any 16
crime in this state or under the laws of the United States for one 17
hundred twenty hours or more. 18

(B) The sheriff who oversees a jail shall ensure that the 19
health-trained personnel responsible for conducting medical, 20

dental, or mental health screening under division (C) of this 21
section are trained as to the symptoms, consequences, and 22
treatment options of withdrawal from benzodiazepines, alcohol, and 23
other addictive drugs prior to the health-trained personnel 24
conducting a medical, dental, or mental health screening. The jail 25
physician or physician servicing the jail shall ensure that 26
adequate measures are in place to identify and treat inmates at 27
risk of withdrawal from addictive drugs. 28

(C)(1) Health-trained personnel shall perform a medical, 29
dental, and mental health screening on each inmate upon arrival at 30
the jail and shall record the findings of the screening. The 31
screening shall include inquiry into the inmate's use of alcohol 32
and drugs, including the type of alcohol or drug used, the 33
frequency and amount used, the date or time of last use, and the 34
history of any problems after ceasing use. 35

(2) If health-trained personnel discover that an inmate is 36
taking xanax, ativan, valium, or any other benzodiazepine, the 37
health-trained personnel shall attempt to verify the prescription 38
with the prescribing physician within twenty-four hours of the 39
inmate being admitted to the jail. If health-trained personnel are 40
unable to verify the prescription in that time period, the 41
health-trained personnel shall arrange for the inmate to meet with 42
a psychiatrist within seventy-two hours of the inmate being 43
admitted to the jail to ensure that, if the psychiatrist considers 44
it necessary, the benzodiazepine is tapered off in a timely and 45
clinically appropriate manner using appropriate, less addictive 46
medication. If health-trained personnel verify the prescription 47
within twenty-four hours of the inmate being admitted to the jail, 48
the jail physician or physician servicing the jail shall ensure 49
that the benzodiazepine is tapered off in a timely and clinically 50
appropriate manner using appropriate, less addictive medication. 51

(D) This section shall be commonly known as "Sean's Law." 52

(E) As used in this section, "health-trained personnel" means 53
members of the jail staff who are trained in limited aspects of 54
health care, including any correctional officers and other 55
personnel approved by the jail physician or physician servicing 56
the jail. 57