

Name: Brennan O'Connor

Bill No. 5273

Standing on Bill: in support of Bill No.5273

My name is Brennan O'Connor, I am a senior student at North Providence High School and I work as a lifeguard in the summer at Lincoln Woods state park. I am the person who proposed this bill initially, and came up with the idea after my 2 years of experience at a public state beach in Rhode Island. This Bill is also part of my senior project for this year, as well as my Civil Action Project in my AP US Government class. I hope to study in the field of government and politics and hopefully find a job in the field in my future career.

In my first year alone, I had dealt with at least 3 instances where drugs were a major factor in an issue occurring at the beach. One day I had to save a man passed out in the water with his son, only held up by the lane lines. Another day while leaving work I witnessed a car speed around us in the biking lane and crash into 4 to 5 parked cars, somehow with no injuries whatsoever. Upon my mother giving her testimony to police after the incident had occurred, we were informed that it was a DUI. On my last week on the job, I was threatened by a man on the beach who was on some form of stimulant and extremely aggressive, to the point that state troopers were needed to de-escalate the situation and make the patron leave the beach.

These events all showcased patrons at the beach who were not only a danger to those around them, but to themselves, and any one of these situations could have been made substantially worse if the person in question had overdosed. Lifeguards are already equipped with very top of the line equipment, such as AED, oxygen masks, and at Lincoln Woods at least, we had an entire boat and engine. Considering we have all this, it would be a very small additional amount of funds for a life saving medication at state beaches when compared to other equipment.

With your help, we could prevent a tragedy from happening at all state beaches, and not a far-fetched tragedy, but one that has almost struck many times over. Please consider this Bill, Thank you.

Brennan O'Connor

3/1/2025