

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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SENATE BILL 154
Judiciary II Committee Substitute Adopted 4/2/15
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/3/15

Short Title: Clarifying the Good Samaritan Law.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 4, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE OPERATION OF THE LIMITED IMMUNITY FROM
2 PROSECUTION FOR CERTAIN DRUG- OR ALCOHOL-RELATED OFFENSES
3 COMMITTED BY AN INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCING A DRUG- OR
4 ALCOHOL-RELATED OVERDOSE AND AN INDIVIDUAL WHO SEEKS MEDICAL
5 ASSISTANCE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCING A DRUG- OR
6 ALCOHOL-RELATED OVERDOSE; TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
7 AND CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE MET BEFORE THE LIMITED IMMUNITY IS
8 ESTABLISHED; TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO
9 ARREST OR REVOCATION OF PRETRIAL RELEASE, PROBATION, PAROLE, OR
10 POST-RELEASE IF BASED UPON AN OFFENSE FOR WHICH THE PERSON IS
11 IMMUNE FROM PROSECUTION; TO PROVIDE THAT A LAW ENFORCEMENT
12 OFFICER SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO CIVIL LIABILITY FOR ARRESTING OR
13 CHARGING A PERSON ENTITLED TO IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION IF THE
14 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER ACTED IN GOOD FAITH; TO PROVIDE THAT A
15 PHARMACIST MAY DISPENSE AN OPIOID ANTAGONIST UPON RECEIVING A
16 PRESCRIPTION ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH G.S. 90-106.2; AND TO PROVIDE
17 THAT A PHARMACIST WHO DISPENSES AN OPIOID ANTAGONIST IN
18 ACCORDANCE WITH G.S. 90-106.2 IS IMMUNE FROM CERTAIN CIVIL OR
19 CRIMINAL LIABILITY.
20

21 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

22 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 90-96.2 reads as rewritten:

23 **"§ 90-96.2. Drug-related overdose treatment; limited immunity.**

24 (a) As used in this section, "drug-related overdose" means an acute condition, including
25 mania, hysteria, extreme physical illness, coma, or death resulting from the consumption or use
26 of a controlled substance, or another substance with which a controlled substance was
27 combined, and that a layperson would reasonably believe to be a drug overdose that requires
28 medical assistance.

29 (b) ~~A person acting in good faith who seeks medical assistance for an individual~~
30 ~~experiencing a drug-related overdose shall not be prosecuted for (i) a misdemeanor violation of~~
31 ~~G.S. 90-95(a)(3), (ii) a felony violation of G.S. 90-95(a)(3) for possession of less than one gram~~
32 ~~of cocaine, (iii) a felony violation of G.S. 90-95(a)(3) for possession of less than one gram of~~
33 ~~heroin, or (iv) a violation of G.S. 90-113.22 if the evidence for prosecution under those sections~~
34 ~~was obtained as a result of the person seeking medical assistance for the drug-related~~
35 ~~overdose.~~ Limited Immunity for Samaritan. – A person shall not be prosecuted for any of the



1 offenses listed in subsection (c3) of this section if all of the following requirements and
2 conditions are met:

- 3 (1) The person sought medical assistance for an individual experiencing a
4 drug-related overdose by contacting the 911 system, a law enforcement
5 officer, or emergency medical services personnel.
- 6 (2) The person acted in good faith when seeking medical assistance, upon a
7 reasonable belief that he or she was the first to call for assistance.
- 8 (3) The person provided his or her own name to the 911 system or to a law
9 enforcement officer upon arrival.
- 10 (4) The person did not seek the medical assistance during the course of the
11 execution of an arrest warrant, search warrant, or other lawful search.
- 12 (5) The evidence for prosecution of the offenses listed in subsection (c3) of this
13 section was obtained as a result of the person seeking medical assistance for
14 the drug-related overdose.

15 ~~(c) A person who experiences a drug related overdose and is in need of medical~~
16 ~~assistance shall not be prosecuted for (i) a misdemeanor violation of G.S. 90-95(a)(3), (ii) a~~
17 ~~felony violation of G.S. 90-95(a)(3) for possession of less than one gram of cocaine, (iii) a~~
18 ~~felony violation of G.S. 90-95(a)(3) for possession of less than one gram of heroin, or (iv) a~~
19 ~~violation of G.S. 90-113.22 if the evidence for prosecution under those sections was obtained~~
20 ~~as a result of the drug related overdose and need for medical assistance.~~ Limited Immunity for
21 Overdose Victim. – The immunity described in subsection (b) of this section shall extend to the
22 person who experienced the drug-related overdose if all of the requirements and conditions
23 listed in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), and (5) of subsection (b) of this section are satisfied.

24 (c1) Probation or Release. – A person shall not be subject to arrest or revocation of
25 pretrial release, probation, parole, or post-release if the arrest or revocation is based on an
26 offense for which the person is immune from prosecution under subsection (b) or (c) of this
27 section. The arrest of a person for an offense for which subsection (b) or (c) of this section may
28 provide the person with immunity will not itself be deemed to be a commission of a new
29 criminal offense in violation of a condition of the person's pretrial release, condition of
30 probation, or condition of parole or post-release.

31 (c2) Civil Liability for Arrest or Charges. – In addition to any other applicable immunity
32 or limitation on civil liability, a law enforcement officer who, acting in good faith, arrests or
33 charges a person who is thereafter determined to be entitled to immunity under this section
34 shall not be subject to civil liability for the arrest or filing of charges.

35 (c3) Covered Offenses. – A person shall have limited immunity from prosecution under
36 subsections (b) and (c) of this section for only the following offenses:

- 37 (1) A misdemeanor violation of G.S. 90-95(a)(3).
- 38 (2) A felony violation of G.S. 90-95(a)(3) for possession of less than one gram
39 of cocaine.
- 40 (3) A felony violation of G.S. 90-95(a)(3) for possession of less than one gram
41 of heroin.
- 42 (4) A violation of G.S. 90-113.22.

43 ~~(d) Nothing Construction. – Nothing in this section shall be construed to bar~~ do any of
44 the following:

- 45 (1) Bar the admissibility of any evidence obtained in connection with the
46 investigation and prosecution of (i) other crimes committed by a person who
47 otherwise qualifies for limited immunity under this section-section or (ii) any
48 crimes committed by a person who does not qualify for limited immunity
49 under this section.
- 50 (2) Limit any seizure of evidence or contraband otherwise permitted by law.

1 (3) Limit or abridge the authority of a law enforcement officer to detain or take
2 into custody a person in the course of an investigation of, or to effectuate an
3 arrest for, any offense other than an offense listed in subsection (c3) of this
4 section.

5 (4) Limit or abridge the authority of a probation officer to conduct drug testing
6 of persons on pretrial release, probation, or parole."

7 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 18B-302.2 reads as rewritten:

8 **"§ 18B-302.2. Medical treatment; limited immunity.**

9 (a) Limited Immunity for Samaritan. – Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
10 person under the age of 21 shall not be prosecuted for a violation of G.S. 18B-302 for the
11 possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages if law enforcement, including campus safety
12 police, became aware of the possession or consumption of alcohol by the person solely because
13 the person was seeking medical assistance for another individual. This section shall apply if,
14 when seeking medical assistance on behalf of another, the person did all of the following: all of
15 the following requirements and conditions are met:

16 (1) The person sought medical assistance for an individual experiencing an
17 alcohol-related overdose by contacting the 911 system, a law enforcement
18 officer, or emergency medical services personnel.

19 (1a) ~~Acted~~ The person acted in good faith, faith when seeking medical assistance,
20 upon a reasonable belief that he or she was the first to call for assistance.

21 (2) ~~Used~~ The person provided his or her own name when contacting
22 ~~authorities~~ to the 911 system or to a law enforcement officer upon arrival.

23 (3) ~~Remained with the individual needing medical assistance until help arrived.~~

24 (4) The person did not seek the medical assistance during the course of the
25 execution of an arrest warrant, search warrant, or other lawful search.

26 (5) The evidence for prosecution of a violation of G.S. 18B-302 for the
27 possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages was obtained as a result of
28 the person seeking medical assistance for the alcohol-related overdose.

29 (b) Limited Immunity for Overdose Victim. – The immunity described in subsection (a)
30 of this section shall extend to the person who needed medical assistance if the requirements in
31 subdivisions (1), (1a), (4), and (5) of subsection (a) are satisfied.

32 (c) Probation or Release. – A person shall not be subject to arrest or revocation of
33 pretrial release, probation, parole, or post-release if the arrest or revocation is based on an
34 offense for which the person is immune from prosecution under subsection (a) or (b) of this
35 section. The arrest of a person for an offense for which subsection (a) or (b) of this section may
36 provide the person with immunity will not itself be deemed to be a commission of a new
37 criminal offense in violation of a condition of the person's pretrial release, condition of
38 probation, or condition of parole or post-release.

39 (d) Civil Liability for Arrest or Charges. – In addition to any other applicable immunity
40 or limitation on civil liability, a law enforcement officer who, acting in good faith, arrests or
41 charges a person who is thereafter determined to be entitled to immunity under this section
42 shall not be subject to civil liability for the arrest or filing of charges."

43 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 90-106.2 reads as rewritten:

44 **"§ 90-106.2. Treatment of overdose with opioid antagonist; immunity.**

45 ...

46 (b) A practitioner acting in good faith and exercising reasonable care may directly or by
47 standing order prescribe an opioid antagonist to (i) a person at risk of experiencing an
48 opiate-related overdose or (ii) a family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist a
49 person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose. As an indicator of good faith, the
50 practitioner, prior to prescribing an opioid under this subsection, may require receipt of a

1 written communication that provides a factual basis for a reasonable conclusion as to either of
2 the following:

- 3 (1) The person seeking the opioid antagonist is at risk of experiencing an
4 opiate-related overdose.
5 (2) The person other than the person who is at risk of experiencing an
6 opiate-related overdose, and who is seeking the opioid antagonist, is in
7 relation to the person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose:
8 a. A family member, friend, or other person.
9 b. In the position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an
10 opiate-related overdose.

11 (b1) A pharmacist may dispense an opioid antagonist to a person described in subsection
12 (b) of this section pursuant to a prescription issued in accordance with subsection (b) of this
13 section. For purposes of this section, the term "pharmacist" is as defined in G.S. 90-85.3.
14 ...

15 (d) All of the following individuals are immune from any civil or criminal liability for
16 actions authorized by this section:

- 17 (1) Any practitioner who prescribes an opioid antagonist pursuant to subsection
18 (b) of this section.
19 (2) Any pharmacist who dispenses an opioid antagonist pursuant to subsection
20 (b1) of this section.
21 ~~(2)~~(3) Any person who administers an opioid antagonist pursuant to subsection (c)
22 of this section."

23 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective August 1, 2015, and applies to offenses
24 committed on or after that date.