



Fields of Opportunities

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IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE  
MARK BOWDEN, M.P.A., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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**CONTACT: Mark Bowden, (515) 494-8344 or**  
**[mark.bowden@iowa.gov](mailto:mark.bowden@iowa.gov)**

## Gov. Reynolds signs bipartisan opioid bill into law

DES MOINES, IA – Gov. Kim Reynolds signed [House File 2377](#) on Monday, May 14, 2018, a bipartisan piece of legislation she says represents a significant step forward in Iowa’s efforts to address the opioid epidemic. The governor signed the bill in front of overdose victims’ families, law enforcement, state and local officials and others at Mercy Medical Center in Dubuque.

“Opioid-related deaths have more than doubled over the past decade,” Gov. Reynolds said. “And like I said in my [Condition of the State](#) address, this will not end until we take action. With this legislation, we are taking the first step to reverse this heart-wrenching trend.”

An important step in addressing the opioid epidemic is reducing the number of opioids prescribed in Iowa. House File 2377 helps prevent doctor shopping and over-prescribing by:

- requiring all prescribers to register for and use the prescription monitoring program;
- allowing for proactive notification to recognize patients at high risk for abuse and addiction;
- requiring electronic prescribing in order to eliminate the risk of fraud; and
- allowing licensing boards to assess penalties for providers who overprescribe.

House File 2377 also takes a compassionate approach to ensure those who need immediate help with an overdose receive it by providing for immunity from criminal liability for those who call 911 to seek care for someone who has overdosed on drugs.

In addition, opioid prescribers will be required to complete training on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s opioid prescribing guidelines.

Over the next several months, the Boards of Medicine, Dental, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physician Assistants and Podiatry will write rules to implement various sections of the legislation.