

# Utah Senate panel gives OK to inmate addiction study bill

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<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/900011092/utah-senate-panel-gives-ok-to-inmate-addiction-study-bill.html>

February 22, 2018 1:07 pm

SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah Senate committee unanimously supported a bill that would require correctional facilities to report to the state on in-custody inmate deaths, treatment services for inmates with an opiate addiction and prescriptions withheld from inmates during incarceration.

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The sponsor of the bill, Sen. Todd Weiler, R-Woods Cross, told the Senate Judiciary, Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Committee that SB205 comes in response to a rise of inmate suicides related to opioid addiction.

"As a Legislature, we should be concerned when our death rate not only increases but almost doubles," he said.

Weiler clarified that this is only a reporting bill so the Legislature can obtain good information on the issue before proceeding with any other legislation.

Representatives from the American Civil Liberties Union and the Libertas Institute were present to support the bill.

The committee unanimously OK'd the legislation, sending it to the Senate floor for further debate.