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H.R. 5048 – “Good Samaritan Assessment Act of 2016”

Sponsor: Rep. Frank Guinta (NH)

Status: Introduced 4/26/16; Passed House 5/10/16; Referred to Senate 5/11/16

Committee: Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Sec. 1. Short Title

Sec. 2. Finding – Congress finds that the Executive branch, including the Office of National Drug Control Policy has a policy focus on preventing and addressing prescription drug misuse and heroin use and has worked with States and municipalities to enact Good Samaritan laws.

Sec. 3. GAO Study on Good Samaritan Laws Pertaining to Treatment of Opioid Overdoses – Requires the Comptroller General to submit a report on the extent to which the Director of National Drug Control Policy has reviewed Good Samaritan laws and the findings from such reviews, efforts by the Director to encourage enactment of such laws, and a compilation of the laws in effect in the states, territories, and the District of Columbia.*

Sec. 4. Definitions – Defines “Good Samaritan law” as a law that exempts a person who administers an opioid overdose reversal drug or device or who contacts emergency services providers in response to an overdose from criminal or civil liability. Defines “opioid” as any drug, including heroin, that has an addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability similar to morphine or that is capable of conversion into a drug with the same liabilities.

*The bill does not specify what, if any, action is to be taken after the report is submitted.