



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 524 Printer's No. 471

Prime Sponsor: Senator Scarnati
Committee: Judiciary

SYNOPSIS:

This bill amends Title 61 (Probation and Parole) to establish a program that uses non-narcotic medication to assist in substance abuse treatment.

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes the Non-narcotic Medication Assisted Substance Abuse Treatment Grant Program. The purpose of the program is to enable counties to provide long-acting non-narcotic medication, along with comprehensive substance-abuse treatment, to eligible offenders after their release from county correctional facilities.

A county awarded a grant under the program must contract with a provider or organization that will do the following:

- Assess each offender before his or her release
- Determine if the offender is a candidate for the medication
- Create an individualized program for each offender
- Provide access to long-acting naltrexone
- Provide other types of counseling
- Cooperate with the county board of probation and parole
- Create a discharge plan for each offender

The bill requires the Department of Corrections to establish additional criteria for grant funding, develop training for the law enforcement community about opioid and alcohol addiction and the use of non-narcotic medication, and report to the General Assembly in one year the number of offenders to whom the medication was administered, the number of offenders who completed the program, the recidivism rates of participating offenders, the average amount of grants awarded, and the number of providers available to meet the requirements of this legislation.

Amendment A00661: This amendment adds the requirement that the Department make a form available to confirm that an offender is eligible for the program. The amendment clarifies that naltrexone will be approved as part of a prior authorization process by any Medicaid managed care program under contract with the Commonwealth. The Department of Human Services must instruct Medicaid managed care plans that approval of naltrexone must be granted if the eligible offenders are enrolled in the program. The amendment extends the due date of the Department's report from one year to 18 months and adds that it must also contain information about cost savings.

Effective Date: This bill is effective in sixty days.

BILL HISTORY:

There is no bill history during this legislative session.

Prepared by: Patrick Cawley 4/16/2015

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 524

Sponsor:

Printer's No. 471

1 Amend Bill, page 2, lines 7 and 8, by striking out "4603
2 (relating to county participation requirements)" and inserting
3 4503 (relating to definitions)

4 Amend Bill, page 4, by inserting between lines 3 and 4
5 (4) Make a form available to providers to be used to
6 confirm that an offender is eligible for and enrolled in the
7 program.

8 Amend Bill, page 4, line 4, by striking out "(4)" and
9 inserting

10 (5)

11 Amend Bill, page 4, line 7, by striking out "not be subject
12 to" and inserting
13 be approved as part of a

14 Amend Bill, page 4, line 8, by inserting after "authorization
15 "
16 process

17 Amend Bill, page 4, line 9, by striking out the period after
18 "Commonwealth" and inserting
19 for eligible offenders enrolled in the program and receiving
20 comprehensive substance abuse treatment which includes the
21 monitoring of medication adherence upon their release from
22 county correctional institutions.

23 Amend Bill, page 4, line 11, by striking out "prohibit" and
24 inserting
25 instruct

26 Amend Bill, page 4, line 12, by striking out "from requiring

1 prior authorization" and inserting

2 that approval

3 Amend Bill, page 4, line 13, by striking out the period after

4 "naltrexone" and inserting

5 must be granted if the eligible offenders are enrolled in
6 the program upon their release from county correctional
7 institutions.

8 Amend Bill, page 4, line 15, by striking out "By June 30,

9 2016" and inserting

10 Within 18 months of the effective date of this section

11 Amend Bill, page 4, by inserting after line 30

12 (6) The impact of the use of long-acting injectable
13 naltrexone on treatment outcomes and any potential cost
14 savings.