
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Council without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 176 (S.166). Corrections; health care

An act relating to the provision of medication-assisted treatment for inmates

This act authorizes State correctional facilities to continue medication-assisted treatment to those inmates who enter a facility while undergoing medication-assisted treatment and for whom the continuation of medication-assisted treatment is deemed medically necessary. It further authorizes State correctional facilities to facilitate the commencement of medication-assisted treatment using buprenorphine among inmates for whom medication-assisted treatment is medically necessary and who were not receiving medication-assisted treatment on their entry into a facility. An inmate receiving buprenorphine may transfer to methadone if it is deemed medically necessary by a provider authorized to prescribe methadone and the inmate elects to commence methadone. An inmate may continue to receive medication-assisted treatment as long as medically necessary. Discontinuance of medication-assisted treatment, or any medication, by a licensed practitioner requires the practitioner to enter the reason for discontinuation in an inmate's medical record. An inmate must receive a specific explanation of the decision to discontinue a medication along with notice of the right to have his or her community-based prescriber notified of the decision.

The act authorizes the Departments of Corrections and of Health to enter into a memorandum of understanding with opioid treatment programs throughout the State in which a State correctional facility is located for the purpose of providing medication-assisted treatment to those inmates for whom a licensed practitioner has determined such treatment is medically necessary.

By January 15, 2022, the Department of Corrections must present to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and to the Senate Committee on Institutions an evaluation of the effectiveness of the medication-assisted treatment program facilitated by correctional facilities.

Effective Date: July 1, 2018