

H.874

An act relating to inmate access to prescription drugs

The House concurs in the Senate proposal of amendment with further amendment thereto as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 28 V.S.A. § 801, after the section heading “MEDICAL CARE OF INMATES” by inserting the following:

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(b)(1) Upon admission to a correctional facility for a minimum of 14 consecutive days, each inmate shall be given a physical assessment unless extenuating circumstances exist.

(2) Within 24 hours after admission to a correctional facility, each inmate shall be screened for substance use disorders as part of the initial and ongoing substance use screening and assessment process. This process includes screening and assessment for opioid use disorders.

Second: In Sec. 1, 28 V.S.A. § 801(e)(1), after the words “Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, an” by striking “offender” and inserting in lieu thereof “~~offender~~ inmate”

Third: In Sec. 1, 28 V.S.A. § 801(e)(1), after the words “prescription monitoring or information system” by inserting “, including buprenorphine, methadone, or other medication prescribed in the course of medication-assisted treatment,”

Fourth: In Sec. 1, 28 V.S.A. § 801(e), after subdivision (4), by inserting a subdivision (5) to read as follows:

(5) As used in this subchapter:

(A) “Medically necessary” describes health care services that are appropriate in terms of type, amount, frequency, level, setting, and duration to the individual’s diagnosis or condition, are informed by generally accepted medical or scientific evidence, and are consistent with generally accepted practice parameters. Such services shall be informed by the unique needs of each individual and each presenting situation, and shall include a determination that a service is needed to achieve proper growth and development or to prevent the onset or worsening of a health condition.

(B) “Medication-assisted treatment” shall have the same meaning as in 18 V.S.A. § 4750.

Fifth: By inserting after Sec. 1 a new section to be Sec. 1a to read as follows:

Sec. 1a. 18 V.S.A. § 4750 is added to read:

§ 4750. DEFINITION

As used in this chapter, “medication-assisted treatment” means the use of U.S. Federal Drug Administration-approved medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a whole patient approach to the treatment of substance use disorders.