
This summary is of a bill that was vetoed by the Governor and may be reconsidered by the General Assembly prior to final adjournment of the 2021–2022 legislative session. This summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly; it provides a general summary of the bill and may not be exhaustive. This summary has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly and is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

H.728 (Vetoed). Human services; substance use

This bill would have excluded “harm reduction supplies” from the definition of “drug paraphernalia” so as to exclude the sale of harm reduction supplies to a minor from the penalty established in 18 V.S.A. § 4476. Reference to “an AIDS service organization, a substance abuse treatment provider, or a licensed health care provider or facility” would have been removed from the definition of “organized community-based needle exchange program” to expand the type of provider that may provide access to clean needles and syringes.

This bill would have required the Agency of Human Services (Agency) to provide Medicaid beneficiaries with medically necessary medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder when prescribed by a health care professional practicing within the scope of the professional’s license and participating in the Medicaid program. It also would have required the Agency, upon approval of the Drug Utilization Review Board, to cover at least one medication in each therapeutic class for methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone as listed on Medicaid’s preferred drug list without requiring prior authorization. This bill would have required two reports from the Department of Vermont Health Access pertaining to prior authorization for MAT in the Medicaid program.

This bill would have established the Overdose Prevention Site Working Group for the purposes of:

- conducting an inventory of overdose prevention sites nationally;
- identifying the feasibility, liability, and cost of both publicly funded and privately funded overdose prevention sites;
- making recommendations on municipal and local actions necessary to implement overdose prevention sites;
- making recommendations on executive and legislative actions necessary to implement overdose prevention sites, if any; and
- developing an action plan for the design, facility fit-up, and implementation of one or more overdose prevention sites in Vermont.

This bill would have required presentations on the following topics to the committees of jurisdiction: mobile MAT, substance use support for justice-involved Vermonters, and overdose emergency response support.

H.728 (Vetoed)
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Vetoed by the Governor: June 7, 2022

Effective Date: Not applicable