



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

**Raised Bill No. 318**

LCO No. 1409

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM OF PRESCRIPTION OF METHADONE BY PHYSICIANS AFFILIATED WITH A METHADONE MAINTENANCE TREATMENT PROGRAM AND METHADONE TREATMENT SERVICES TO INCARCERATED PERSONS DEPENDENT ON OPIATES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) (a) Not later than January 1,  
2 2003, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall  
3 establish in each of the service regions of the state a pilot research  
4 program of prescription of methadone or other opiate-substitution  
5 therapy by physicians. The physicians shall be licensed in this state,  
6 skilled in addiction medicine and affiliated with a methadone  
7 maintenance treatment program. The department shall, with the  
8 assistance of the Department of Public Health and an advisory  
9 committee appointed by the Department of Mental Health and  
10 Addiction Services, establish protocols for the pilot program in  
11 accordance with the provisions of this section.

12 (b) The department shall appoint to the advisory committee  
13 representatives of the Departments of Mental Health and Addiction

14 Services and Public Health, methadone maintenance treatment  
15 programs, community medical providers, and physicians skilled in  
16 addiction medicine, methadone patients or their representatives and  
17 others the department considers appropriate to develop the protocols.  
18 The advisory committee shall also conduct an ongoing review of the  
19 pilot programs.

20 (c) The pilot research program in each region shall (1) be incorporated  
21 into an existing methadone maintenance treatment program, (2) provide  
22 services to stabilized patients at a location separate from the methadone  
23 maintenance treatment program, (3) in its first year of operation, have no  
24 fewer than two physicians who are affiliated with the methadone  
25 maintenance treatment program, and thereafter have no fewer than five  
26 such physicians, (4) have methadone or other opiate-substitution therapy  
27 prescribed by the affiliated physicians to be dispensed by the prescribing  
28 physician, a pharmacy or the methadone maintenance treatment clinic as  
29 determined by the prescribing physician, and (5) set other appropriate  
30 standards and protocols for the program, including admission to,  
31 participation in, discharge from, retention in the program, and transition  
32 to other programs.

33 (d) Each pilot program shall include an evaluation component for the  
34 department to monitor (1) the ability of the program to attract and retain  
35 participants, (2) any reduction in illicit opiate use, (3) the status of  
36 treatment in the pilot program, (4) changes in behavior, including  
37 HIV-related risk behavior, in physical health, in involvement with the  
38 criminal justice system, in employment and in other social integration  
39 indicators, and (5) other evaluation information that the department  
40 considers appropriate.

41 (e) Not later than January 1, 2005, the Department of Mental Health  
42 and Addiction Services shall submit a report evaluating the effectiveness  
43 of the program in each of the regions to the joint standing committee of  
44 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
45 health.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	July 1, 2002

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a pilot program for substance abuse treatment.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*