



**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE
PRESCRIPTION OF METHADONE BY PHYSICIANS.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Mental
2 Health and Addiction Services shall establish, in at least one service
3 region of the state, a demonstration program of office-based
4 methadone maintenance treatment of opioid-dependent persons by
5 physicians licensed in this state and qualified in addiction medicine
6 pursuant to the criteria and standards set under subsection (b) of this
7 section. The methadone medication may be dispensed, pursuant to a
8 medication order for the treating physician, by a pharmacy with which
9 the physician has established a written protocol in accordance with
10 subsection (b) of this section.

11 (b) The commissioner shall set criteria and standards for the
12 program, including, but not limited to: (1) Eligibility of physicians and
13 pharmacies to participate in the program; (2) relationship of
14 participating physicians with methadone maintenance clinics and
15 pharmacies; (3) patient participation in the program; and (4) dosage
16 form of the medication.

17 (c) No later than October 1, 2002, the commissioner shall apply to
18 the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
19 Administration for an exemption for office-based treatment using

20 methadone. No later than one year after the demonstration program is
21 fully operational, the commissioner shall submit a preliminary report,
22 in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the
23 effectiveness of the program to the joint standing committee of the
24 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
25 health.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*