



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Proposed Bill No. 621**

LCO No. 3022



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:

SEN. WITKOS, 8th Dist.

SEN. SOMERS, 18th Dist.

REP. COOK, 65th Dist.

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUALS  
EXPERIENCING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER AND OTHER MENTAL  
HEALTH ISSUES.**

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

1 That the general statutes be amended to require (1) the Department  
2 of Mental Health and Addiction Services to adopt regulations  
3 permitting the nonvoluntary commitment of an individual who has a  
4 substance use disorder when there is a likelihood of serious harm as a  
5 result of such individual's substance use, which commitment (A) shall  
6 be pursuant to a physician's emergency certificate for the purpose of  
7 inpatient, residential care of such individual, but (B) need not originate  
8 from such individual's admission to the emergency department, (2) the  
9 establishment of a pilot program to create a stabilization center to  
10 provide a centralized hub of resources available to individuals with  
11 mental health issues, (3) intake procedures at all licensed methadone  
12 clinics in the state to be standardized, (4) mental health first aid  
13 training to be included as part of the required training of new  
14 emergency medical services providers, and (5) a mental health

15 screening be given to any individual admitted to an emergency  
16 department for a nonfatal overdose prior to such individual's  
17 discharge.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To implement steps aimed at supporting individuals, their families and first responders currently experiencing or dealing with instances of substance use disorder or other mental health issues.