



General Assembly

**Amendment**

*January Session, 2021*

LCO No. **9972**



Offered by:

REP. STEINBERG, 136<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. DAUGHERTY ABRAMS, 13<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. SOMERS, 18<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. BUCKBEE, 67<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. MCCARTY, 38<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: House Bill No. **5597**

File No. 410

Cal. No. 311

**"AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOIDS."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Mental Health and  
5 Addiction Services;

6 (2) "Department" means the "Department of Mental Health and  
7 Addiction Services;

8 (3) "Opioid use disorder" means a medical condition characterized by  
9 a problematic pattern of opioid use and misuse leading to clinically

10 significant impairment or distress; and

11 (4) "Peer navigator" means a person who (A) has experience working  
12 with persons with substance use disorder, as defined in section 20-74 of  
13 the general statutes, (B) provides nonmedical mental health care and  
14 substance use services to such persons, and (C) has a collaborative  
15 relationship with a health care professional authorized to prescribe  
16 medications to treat opioid use disorder.

17 (b) On or before January 1, 2022, the department shall establish,  
18 within available appropriations, a pilot program in urban, suburban  
19 and rural communities to serve persons with opioid use disorder in such  
20 communities. The department shall establish the pilot program in up to  
21 five such communities in accordance with such terms and conditions as  
22 the commissioner may prescribe.

23 (c) Each community in which the pilot program is established under  
24 subsection (b) of this section shall form a team of at least two peer  
25 navigators. The team shall work in the community to (1) increase  
26 engagement between providers of treatment services, health care and  
27 social services and persons with opioid use disorder, (2) improve the  
28 retention of such persons in treatment for opioid use disorder by  
29 addressing social determinants of health of such persons and emerging  
30 local conditions that affect such social determinants of health, and (3)  
31 increase the capacity of the community to support such persons by  
32 identifying and addressing systemic barriers to treatment services,  
33 health care, social services and social support of such persons. The team  
34 shall (A) travel throughout the community to address, in person, the  
35 health care and social needs of persons with opioid use disorder, and  
36 (B) be accessible to such persons through (i) a telephone number that  
37 has texting capabilities, and (ii) social media. Each peer navigator that  
38 participates in the pilot program shall receive regularly updated  
39 training, as determined by the commissioner, on noncoercive and  
40 nonstigmatizing methods for engaging those with opioid use disorder.

41 (d) On or before January 1, 2023, the commissioner shall report, in

42 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
 43 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
 44 cognizance of matters relating to public health regarding the success of  
 45 the pilot program in serving persons with opioid use disorder and any  
 46 recommendations for continuing the pilot program or expanding the  
 47 pilot program into other communities in the state.

48 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) On or before January 1, 2022, the  
 49 Commissioner of Public Health shall (1) establish guidelines for the use  
 50 of evidence-based, nonpharmaceutical therapies to treat chronic pain,  
 51 including, but not limited to, chiropractic treatment and physical  
 52 therapy, and (2) conduct educational and outreach activities to raise  
 53 awareness of such guidelines."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section