



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 9843



Offered by:

REP. STEINBERG, 136th Dist.
SEN. DAUGHERTY ABRAMS, 13th Dist.
SEN. SOMERS, 18th Dist.
REP. BUCKBEE, 67th Dist.
REP. MCCARTY, 38th 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."

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