

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1427

---

**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
Health Care & Wellness

**Title:** An act relating to opioid treatment programs.

**Brief Description:** Concerning opioid treatment programs.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Cody, Jinkins, Peterson and Pollet.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Health Care & Wellness: 1/24/17, 2/17/17 [DPS].

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- Modifies the standards for certifying and siting opioid treatment programs.
- Modifies terminology and declarations regarding treatment for opioid use disorder.

---

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 17 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Macri, Vice Chair; Schmick, Ranking Minority Member; Graves, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Caldier, Clibborn, DeBolt, Harris, Jinkins, MacEwen, Maycumber, Riccelli, Robinson, Rodne, Slatter, Stonier and Tharinger.

**Staff:** Alexa Silver (786-7190).

**Background:**

In the Community Mental Health Services Act, the state declares the following:

1. There is no fundamental right to opiate substitution treatment.
2. While opiate substitution drugs are addictive substances, they also have important and justified uses, including treatment of persons addicted to opioids. Opiate substitution treatment should be used only for participants who are deemed appropriate for this level of intervention and should not be the first treatment intervention.

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

3. The state has authority to control and carefully regulate the clinical uses of opiate substitution drugs in consultation with counties and cities.
4. The primary goal of opiate substitution treatment is total abstinence from substance use.
5. A small percentage of participants will require treatment for an extended period of time.

The Department of Social and Health Services (Department) certifies opiate substitution treatment programs and is required to establish treatment and operating standards for the programs in consultation with treatment providers, counties, and cities.

In making a decision on a program's application for certification, the Department must, among other things:

- consult with the county and city in which the applicant proposes to locate a program;
- certify only programs that will be sited in accordance with county or city land use ordinances;
- consider the population in need of treatment in the area in which the program would be located;
- demonstrate a need in the community for opiate substitution treatment, and not certify more program slots than justified by the need. No program may exceed 350 participants unless authorized by the county; and
- hold at least one public hearing in the county where the facility is proposed to be located, as well as a hearing in the area where the facility is proposed to be located.

Opiate treatment programs must provide health education information to pregnant clients, including referral options for the addicted baby.

To maintain certification, opiate substitution programs must submit an annual report to the Department and county legislative authority, including data necessary for outcome analysis. The Department must evaluate the data and take corrective action where necessary.

"Opiate substitution treatment" is defined as: (1) dispensing an opiate substitution drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of opiate addiction; and (2) providing a comprehensive range of medical and rehabilitative services.

---

### **Summary of Substitute Bill:**

In making a decision on an application for certification of an opioid treatment program, the Department of Social and Health Services (Department) is not required to: demonstrate a need in the community for opiate substitution treatment; certify only the number of program slots justified by community need; hold a public meeting in the area where the facility is to be located; or consider whether the applicant has demonstrated the capability to assist persons in the program with meeting abstinence goals.

Authority for counties and cities to require special use permits for the siting of opioid treatment programs is removed. The 350-participant limit is removed; instead, a county may

impose a maximum capacity for an opioid treatment program of not less than 350 participants if necessary to address specific local conditions cited by the county.

Opioid treatment programs are subject to the same oversight as other substance use disorder treatment programs and are no longer required to submit an annual report with data to the Department and the county legislative authority.

Declarations in the Community Mental Health Services Act (Act) are modified to provide that:

1. the state recognizes as evidence-based for the management of opioid use disorder the treatment approaches acknowledged by the University of Washington Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute, as well as medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of opioid use disorder;
2. because some such medications are controlled substances, the state maintains the legal obligation to regulate the clinical uses of these medications in the treatment of opioid use disorder;
3. the choice between recognized treatment options should be patient-centered and determined by shared decision-making between patients and providers;
4. the primary goals of treatment are cessation of unprescribed opioid use, reduced morbidity, and restoration of the ability to lead a productive and fulfilling life;
5. a person who lawfully possesses or uses lawfully prescribed medication for the treatment of opioid use disorder must be treated the same in judicial and administrative proceedings as a person who lawfully possesses or uses other lawfully prescribed medications; and
6. the Act does not create an entitlement to medication assisted treatment.

Terms used in the Act are changed to "opioid treatment program," "medication assisted treatment," "opioid use disorder," and "substance-exposed babies" instead of "opiate substitution treatment programs," "methadone treatment," "opiate addiction," and "addicted babies."

#### **Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:**

The substitute bill: removes the 350-participant limit and instead permits the county to impose a maximum capacity of not less than 350 participants; removes authority for local governments to require special use permits; adds a declaration related to treatment of people who lawfully possess and use medications for opioid use disorder; adds a declaration that the Act does not create an entitlement to medication assisted treatment; and references "substance-exposed babies" rather than "addicted babies" for purposes of the requirement to provide pregnant clients with information.

---

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Preliminary fiscal note available.

**Effective Date of Substitute Bill:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) This bill represents an important step toward reducing barriers to treating people with opioid use disorder. Medication assisted treatment is about recovery and stability and is a necessary component of care for people addicted to heroin and other opiates. The bill removes unnecessary requirements for siting and regulating opioid treatment programs and will expand access to treatment. It also removes outdated, stigmatizing language and reflects current science. It is important to reduce the stigma to be able to talk about opioid addiction because people need to be able to talk about their problems to understand them. There is concern about the lack of focus on upstream prescribing of opiates. There are nonpharmaceutical options for pain management, like acupuncture.

(Opposed) None.

(Other) This bill should include drugless therapies like chiropractic and physical therapy. The Centers for Disease Control opioid guidelines talk about the use of physical therapy as an alternative to opioids and to treat opioid addiction. Chiropractic therapy is effective for pain management.

**Persons Testifying:** (In support) Jim Vollendroff, King County Behavioral Health and Recovery; Nickolaus Lewis, Lummi Nation; and Leslie Emerick, Washington East Asian Medicine Association.

(Other) Lori Grassi, Washington State Chiropractic Association; and Melissa Johnson, Physical Therapy Association of Washington.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.