
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2470 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY HACKETT, STEPHENS, PICKETT, KOTIK, CORBIN, MURT,
KINSEY, TOEPEL, NEILSON, O'BRIEN, MASSER, MILLARD, THOMAS,
McGEEHAN, GODSHALL, BARRAR, SWANGER, COHEN, DeLUCA, FRANKEL,
MARSICO AND HARHAI, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

AN ACT

1 Establishing addiction treatment pilot programs.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Definitions.

5 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
6 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
7 context clearly indicates otherwise:

8 "Department." The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs of
9 the Commonwealth.

10 "Drug court." A problem-solving court authorized under 42
11 Pa.C.S. § 916 (relating to problem-solving courts), to address
12 the needs of defendants who have a drug addiction.

13 "Medication-assisted treatment." A licensed drug and alcohol
14 treatment program that offers nonnarcotic, abstinence-based
15 medication.

16 "Opioid treatment program." A licensed drug and alcohol

1 treatment program that offers an assessment to individuals who
2 are addicted to opioid drugs to determine what type of treatment
3 is needed. The opioid treatment program must provide counseling,
4 medication-assisted treatment or abstinence-based treatment.
5 The term does not include a program that offers methadone or
6 suboxone treatment.

7 Section 2. Establishment of pilot programs.

8 The department shall establish three pilot programs, in a
9 rural, suburban and urban area of this Commonwealth. Each pilot
10 program shall offer an opioid treatment program to persons who
11 are offenders within the criminal justice system and selected
12 under this section to be participants in the pilot program
13 because of the offender's dependence on opioids. The drug courts
14 selected must have an established relationship with treatment
15 providers that offer abstinence-based medications. After the
16 establishment of the evaluation plan in section 3, the drug
17 court programs shall select persons who are offenders within the
18 criminal justice system to be participants in the pilot program.
19 To be selected, a person must meet the legal and clinical
20 eligibility criteria for the drug court program and be an active
21 participant in the program. After being enrolled in the pilot
22 program, a participant shall comply with all requirements of the
23 certified drug court program.

24 Section 3. Evaluation.

25 (a) Selection.--Not later than 60 days after the effective
26 date of this section, the department shall select a nationally
27 recognized criminal justice research institute with extensive
28 experience in the evaluation of criminal justice and substance
29 abuse projects to develop an evaluation plan for the pilot
30 program. The evaluation plan shall include performance measures

1 that reflect the purpose of the pilot program. The purpose of
2 the pilot program is to assist participants in addressing their
3 dependence on opioids, alcohol, or both, by maintaining
4 abstinence from the use of those substances and reducing
5 recidivism.

6 (b) Plan development.--The evaluation plan developed by the
7 research institute shall be established in each of the certified
8 drug court programs included in the pilot program and with the
9 addiction services providers that will provide treatment to the
10 participants prior to enrolling participants in the pilot
11 program.

12 (c) Findings.--The research institute selected by the
13 department in this section shall report its findings obtained
14 from the pilot program.

15 (d) Report.--The department shall issue a biannual report no
16 later than two years after the effective date of section 2
17 providing a summary of the evaluation established under
18 subsection (a). The report shall highlight whether or not the
19 pilot has proven to be cost effective in addressing the needs of
20 the participants. The report shall be submitted to the Governor,
21 the Supreme Court, the President pro tempore of the Senate and
22 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

23 Section 4. Effective date.

24 This act shall take effect immediately.