87R1079 GCB-D

By:  Sherman, Sr. H.B. No. 1640

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a medication-assisted treatment program established by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for inmates with opioid use disorders.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Subchapter B, Chapter 501, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 501.071 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.071.  MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "medication-assisted treatment" means the use of medications approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of opioid dependence, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies effective for the treatment of opioid use disorders.

(b)  The department shall establish a medication-assisted treatment program under which:

(1)  each inmate is assessed, during the diagnostic process, for an opioid use disorder; and

(2)  an inmate determined to have an opioid use disorder is provided with the opportunity to receive medication-assisted treatment.

(c)  Medication-assisted treatment provided under the program must be tailored to each individual inmate based on clinical criteria.

(d)  The program must provide for continuity of care by ensuring that, as applicable:

(1)  an inmate who is being treated with a medication approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of opioid dependence when the inmate enters custody of the department is maintained on that medication under the program; and

(2)  on the release or discharge of an inmate receiving a medication approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of opioid dependence under the program, the inmate is provided with a sufficient supply of the medication during the inmate's transition to community treatment for opioid use disorders.

(e)  The program must provide an inmate receiving medication-assisted treatment while confined with information about available community treatment for opioid use disorders before the inmate's release or discharge.

(f)  The department may contract with a medication-assisted treatment provider to administer all or part of the program established under this section.

SECTION 2.  As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, but not later than December 1, 2021, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall establish the program required by Section 501.071, Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.