

By: Sherman, Sr.

H.B. No. 1640

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a medication-assisted treatment program established by
3 the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for inmates with opioid
4 use disorders.

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

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

8 Sec. 501.071. MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT PROGRAM. (a)

9 In this section, "medication-assisted treatment" means the use of
10 medications approved by the United States Food and Drug
11 Administration for the treatment of opioid dependence, in
12 combination with counseling and behavioral therapies effective for
13 the treatment of opioid use disorders.

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

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

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

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

24 (d) The program must provide for continuity of care by

1 ensuring that, as applicable:

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

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

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

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

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

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