

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 638 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY WARD, D. WHITE, EICHELBERGER, STACK, WASHINGTON,
M. WHITE, MENSCH, VOGEL, ORIE, WAUGH, SOLOBAY, FONTANA,
BREWSTER AND KASUNIC, FEBRUARY 24, 2011

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, FEBRUARY 24, 2011

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in public assistance,
4 further providing for definitions; and, in public assistance,
5 providing for mileage reimbursement for individuals receiving
6 methadone treatment.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 402 of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31,
10 No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code, is amended by adding
11 definitions to read:

12 Section 402. Definitions.--As used in this article, unless
13 the content clearly indicates otherwise:

14 * * *

15 "Medical assistance transportation program" means the program
16 funded in part by the Department of Public Welfare that provides
17 transportation to medical services for medical assistance
18 patients who have no other transportation available to them.

19 "Methadone" means a synthetic opioid agonist which binds with

opioid receptors in the brain to initiate drug actions that
mimic the effects of opiates.

"Narcotic treatment program" means a program for chronic drug
users that either administers or dispenses agents under a
narcotic treatment physician's order for detoxification or
maintenance purposes, or provides a comprehensive range of
medical and rehabilitative services to alleviate adverse
medical, psychological or physical effects incident to an
addiction to narcotics, or both.

* * *

Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 443.11. Mileage Reimbursement for Individuals
Receiving Methadone Treatment.--(a) An individual receiving
methadone treatment by a licensed provider, pursuant to a
narcotic treatment program, shall be eligible for mileage
reimbursement only if the treatment is received at the treatment
program closest to the individual's residence based on a one-way
trip calculation.

(b) The department may develop an exceptions process based
on medical emergency and availability of closest provider.

(c) County medical assistance transportation programs in
consultation with the department shall develop procedures for
the prevention, detection and reporting of suspected fraud and
abuse relating to the reimbursement of mileage for methadone
treatment.

Section 3. This act shall take effect in 30 days.