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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 675 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, BROWNE, HUTCHINSON, STEFANO AND K. WARD,  
MAY 28, 2019

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REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MAY 28, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Providing for certification of buprenorphine office-based  
2 prescribers; limiting the use of buprenorphine; and imposing  
3 powers and duties on the Department of Drug and Alcohol  
4 Programs.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Buprenorphine  
9 Medically Assisted Treatment Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

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

14 "Buprenorphine." A material, compound, mixture of  
15 preparation containing buprenorphine or its salts used as  
16 medically assisted treatment for opioid addiction.

17 "Buprenorphine office-based prescriber." A person that is  
18 assigned a waiver from the Drug Enforcement Administration,  
19 including a special identification number, commonly referred to

1 as the "X" DEA number, and provides office-based prescribing of  
2 buprenorphine.

3 "Department." The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs of  
4 the Commonwealth.

5 Section 3. Buprenorphine medically assisted treatment.

6 (a) Certification.--The department shall establish a program  
7 for certification of buprenorphine office-based prescribers as  
8 qualified by training and experience to prescribe buprenorphine.

9 (b) Fee.--A buprenorphine office-based prescriber shall pay  
10 a fee to the department in order to receive certification under  
11 subsection (a). The amount of the fee shall not exceed \$500  
12 during the first year in which the fee may be imposed and  
13 thereafter shall not exceed an amount sufficient to reimburse  
14 the department for the administrative cost to administer and  
15 enforce this act.

16 (c) Prohibition.--No buprenorphine office-based prescriber  
17 shall prescribe buprenorphine to a patient unless all of the  
18 following occur:

19 (1) The patient provides evidence demonstrating active  
20 participation in an addiction treatment program licensed by  
21 the department.

22 (2) The evidence of participation in the addiction  
23 treatment program is documented in the patient's medical  
24 record.

25 (3) The buprenorphine office-based prescriber is  
26 certified by the department as provided under subsection (a).

27 (d) Violations.--

28 (1) The department shall report a violation of this act  
29 to the appropriate licensure board.

30 (2) A person who violates this act and is licensed by a

1 licensure board under another act shall be subject to  
2 discipline by the licensure board under the other act for the  
3 violation, including license suspension or revocation or an  
4 appropriate fine or other penalty.

5 Section 4. Effective date.

6 This act shall take effect in 60 days.