



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 524

PRINTERS NO. 1443

PRIME SPONSOR: Scarnati

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17
General Fund	See "Fiscal Impact" below.	

### SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 524 amends Title 61, Prisons and Parole, concerning a non-narcotic medication assisted substance abuse treatment grant pilot program. It would take effect in 60 days.

### ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 524 establishes the Non-narcotic Medication Assisted Substance Abuse Treatment Grant Pilot Program within the Department of Corrections (DOC). It is intended to increase opportunities for counties to provide long acting non-narcotic, non-addictive medication combined with comprehensive substance abuse treatment to eligible offenders upon release from county correctional institutions. Grants will be limited to fiscal year 2015-16 and awarded to counties eligible to participate in the pilot program within six months of the effective date of the program.

The legislation lists county participation requirements in order for a county to be eligible for grant funding under the pilot program. These include having a county correctional institution with an institutional substance abuse treatment program that supports offenders transitioning from a county correctional institution to the community or offenders who are sentenced to serve intermediate punishment. A county awarded a grant under the program must contract with an entity that will assess offenders to determine which individuals would benefit most from the pilot program, create an individualized program for those offenders, and provide clinically appropriate inpatient or outpatient services determined as necessary to support each individual's treatment plan, including the long-acting non-narcotic, non-addictive medication assisted treatment.

As the administering agency for the program, the bill grants additional powers and duties to the DOC. The department is responsible for creating forms, establishing additional criteria for applicants, and promulgating any rules and regulations necessary to implement the program. It must also develop training and materials for the law enforcement community in consultation with appropriate state agencies, primarily the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. In addition, the DOC is required to issue a report evaluating the pilot program's effectiveness to

the House and Senate Judiciary and Appropriations Committees within 18 months after the bill becomes effective.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

According to the 2014 Annual Report of Pennsylvania County Correctional Facilities, produced by the DOC, Office of County Inspection & Services, there were approximately 210,000 individuals released from county correctional institutions in 2013. This number includes each release from pretrial detention, parole violations and every county sentence. According to the Governor's Office of the Budget, over 40 percent, or 80,000, individuals released from prison have drug and/or alcohol addictions and may participate in the pilot program. It's assumed that only 5 percent of that population, or 4,000 individuals, will receive the non-narcotic, non-addictive medication assisted treatment under this pilot program, excluding those who are ineligible for Medical Assistance (MA) and those who cannot or will not participate in the pilot program due to conflicting medical conditions.

Senate Bill 524 specifically states that grant awards will be at the discretion of the DOC and must be limited to amounts annually appropriated to the department for the pilot program. So there will be no program if money is not appropriated for it.

According to the Governor's Office of the Budget, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, in consultation with the DOC, may incur minimal costs in developing training and instructional materials concerning opioid and alcohol addiction. These costs can be absorbed in the department's existing budget.

The DOC may incur estimated personnel costs of \$80,000 to \$250,000, in FY 2015-16, to manage and monitor the grant pilot program. Additionally, grants awarded to eligible counties, by the DOC, will be determined by the amount appropriated to the department by the General Assembly in FY 2015-2016.

**PREPARED BY:** Jeff Miller  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** December 1, 2015

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*