



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1515

PRINTER'S NO. 1718

PRIME SPONSOR: Madden

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY:

House Bill 1515, Printer's Number 1718 amends Title 61 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes Chapter 46 to create the Medication-Assisted Substance Abuse Treatment Grant program, managed by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

ANALYSIS:

This legislation repeals the Nonnarcotic Medication-assisted Substance Abuse Treatment pilot program and establishes in its place the Medication-assisted Substance Abuse Treatment Grant Program. Under this grant program, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) will provide opportunities to counties to provide medication-assisted treatment along with comprehensive substance use treatment to eligible offenders while incarcerated and upon release.

To be eligible for grant funding, a county must:

- Make an application to PCCD,
- Have a county correctional institution with an institutional substance abuse treatment program that supports offenders while incarcerated or when transitioning from the correctional institution to the community or offenders who are sentenced to serve probation with restrictive conditions,
- Be able to contract with a provider as required under this grant program, and
- Meet any other requirements established by PCCD.

Grant funding will be awarded under the grant program for the following activities:

- Assess each offender, prior to reentry into the community, and determine if the offender is a candidate for medication that prevents relapse to drug dependence or alcohol dependence or both.
- Create an individualized program for each offender identified.
- Provide access to and administer medication-assisted treatment.
- Provide clinically appropriate inpatient or outpatient services determined as necessary to support each individual's treatment plan.
- Cooperate with the county probation and parole office as to the use of any drug identified for the individual.
- Create a discharge plan for the offender.

Grant awards are at the discretion of PCCD and are limited to the amount annually appropriated to the commission for this program.

PCCD has the following powers and duties in collaboration with the Department of Corrections:

- Establish the criteria and a form for the counties to apply for the grant program funding,
- Develop or approve training and instructional materials for the law enforcement community about opioid and alcohol addiction and the proper and effective use of medication-assisted treatment,
- Make a form available for use in confirming that an offender is eligible for an enrolled in this program,
- Establish the basis for medical provider to be reimbursed and for substance use treatment provider to be reimbursed for counseling services.
- Promulgate any rules and regulations as necessary to implement this chapter.

For the Medical Assistance managed care program, medication-assisted treatment must be approved by the Managed Care Organization (MCO) through the prior authorization process for eligible offenders enrolled in this grant program upon release from the county correctional institution.

Within 90 days of the effective date of the requirements in this legislation, the Department of Human Services must issue a bulletin notice to instruct the MCOs that approval for the use of medication-assisted treatment must be granted if the eligible offenders are enrolled in the program upon release from the county correctional institution.

The legislation requires a report be prepared and submitted to the General Assembly. The first report is due two years after the effective date of this legislation and shall be issued every two years after that time. The report must include:

- The number of eligible offenders to whom medication-assisted treatment was administered.
- The number of eligible offenders who completed the program of medication-assisted treatment.
- Recidivism rates of eligible offenders to whom medication-assisted treatment was administered.
- The summary of the grants awarded and the grant amounts.
- The impact of the use of medication-assisted treatment on treatment outcomes and any potential cost savings.

This legislation will take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Nonnarcotic Medication-assisted Substance Abuse Treatment pilot program is currently funded through the Department of Correction's (DOC) general government operations appropriation and run by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) through a memorandum of understanding. The legislation stipulates that future funding of the program is dependent on appropriations from the General Assembly. The fiscal impact of this legislation depends on the size of these appropriations relative to the amount that was appropriated to the DOC in prior fiscal years.

House Bill 1515 also expands the coverage of the current pilot program to cover all substance use disorder medication-assisted treatment. This expansion may increase the number of grant applicants and the size of the requested funds. Because the size and number of approved grant applications is limited to the amount appropriated by the General Assembly to PCCD, this expansion will have no fiscal impact on the Commonwealth.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: July 7, 2023

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