

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, KASUNIC AND SMUCKER, FEBRUARY 24, 2011

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, NOVEMBER 15, 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.

1 "Methadone" means a synthetic opioid agonist which binds with  
2 opioid receptors in the brain to initiate drug actions that  
3 mimic the effects of opiates.

4 "Mileage reimbursement" means the reimbursement provided to  
5 an individual who uses a personal vehicle in order for the  
6 individual to receive methadone treatment at a licensed provider  
7 of service.

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

15 \* \* \*

16 "Paratransit service" means any personal transportation  
17 service operating on a nonfixed route basis, excluding mileage  
18 reimbursement or volunteer-driven rides.

19 \* \* \*

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

21 Section 443.11. Mileage Reimbursement and Paratransit  
22 Services for Individuals Receiving Methadone Treatment.--(a) An  
23 individual receiving methadone treatment by a licensed provider,  
24 pursuant to a narcotic treatment program, shall be eligible for  
25 mileage reimbursement or paratransit services only if the ←  
26 treatment is received at the treatment program closest to the  
27 individual's residence based on a one way trip calculation. THE ←  
28 FOLLOWING:

29 (1) MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT EQUAL TO THE DISTANCE FROM THE  
30 INDIVIDUAL'S RESIDENCE TO THE TREATMENT PROGRAM CLOSEST TO THE

1 INDIVIDUAL'S RESIDENCE; OR

2 (2) PARATRANSIT SERVICES, IF THE TREATMENT IS RECEIVED AT  
3 THE TREATMENT PROGRAM CLOSEST TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S RESIDENCE  
4 BASED ON A ONE-WAY TRIP CALCULATION.

5 (b) The department may develop an exceptions process based  
6 on medical emergency, physical health, safety issues and  
7 availability of closest provider.

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

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