

SENATE, No. 1731

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes various initiatives to expand availability of medication-assisted treatment.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning treatment for substance use disorders and
2 supplementing Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. The State Board of Medical Examiners shall prescribe the
8 following requirements for physician training, by regulation, in
9 consultation with the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education:

10 a. The curriculum in each college of medicine in this State
11 shall include instruction in the treatment and management of opiate-
12 dependent patients that meets the minimum training requirements
13 established pursuant to federal law for physicians to be authorized
14 to prescribe narcotic drugs that are Schedule III, IV, or V controlled
15 dangerous substances for maintenance or detoxification treatment,
16 which instruction shall be developed in consultation with the
17 Association of American Medical Colleges or another nationally
18 recognized organization which reviews medical school curricula.

19 b. Completion of instruction as provided in subsection a. of this
20 section shall be required as a condition of receiving a diploma from
21 a college of medicine in this State.

22 c. A college of medicine that includes instruction in the
23 treatment and management of opiate-dependent patients as provided
24 in subsection a. of this section in its curricula shall offer, for
25 continuing education credit, training in the treatment and
26 management of opiate-dependent patients which is provided
27 through classroom instruction, workshops, or other educational
28 programs sponsored by the college and which meets criteria
29 established by the board consistent with the instruction developed
30 pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

31 d. A person who received a diploma from a college of medicine
32 in this State prior to the effective date of this act, who was not
33 required to receive and did not receive instruction in the treatment
34 and management of opiate-dependent patients as part of a medical
35 school curriculum, shall be required as a condition of relicensure by
36 the board, to document completion of training in the treatment and
37 management of opiate-dependent patients which is offered pursuant
38 to subsection c. of this section to the satisfaction of the board. The
39 training required by this subsection may be used to satisfy part of
40 the continuing medical education credits required pursuant to
41 section 10 of P.L.2001, c.307 (C.45:9-7.1).

42 e. A physician licensed to practice medicine in this State prior
43 to the effective date of this act, who was not required to receive and
44 did not receive instruction in the treatment and management of
45 opiate-dependent patients as part of a medical school curriculum,
46 shall be required, as a condition of relicensure, to document
47 completion of training in the treatment and management of opiate-
48 dependent patients which is offered pursuant to subsection c. of this

1 section to the satisfaction of the board no later than three years after
2 the effective date of this act. The training required pursuant to this
3 subsection may be used to satisfy part of the continuing medical
4 education credits required pursuant to section 10 of P.L.2001, c.307
5 (C.45:9-7.1).

6 f. The board may waive the requirement in subsection d. or e.
7 of this section if an applicant for relicensure demonstrates to the
8 satisfaction of the board that the applicant has attained the
9 substantial equivalent of this requirement through completion of a
10 similar course in the applicant's post-secondary education that
11 meets criteria established by regulation of the board.

12
13 2. The State Board of Medical Examiners, in consultation with
14 the Commissioners of Health and Human Services, shall develop a
15 program to promote the use of medication-assisted treatment. At a
16 minimum, the program shall:

17 a. Include an education and outreach campaign to improve
18 physician awareness of the availability of medication-assisted
19 treatment for the treatment of substance use disorders, provide
20 information and resources concerning the training and federal
21 waiver requirements to become authorized to prescribe and
22 administer narcotic drugs that are Schedule III, IV, or V controlled
23 dangerous substances for maintenance or detoxification treatment,
24 and advise physicians of the availability of support services
25 provided pursuant to subsection c. of this section;

26 b. Study and implement initiatives to encourage physicians and
27 other authorized health care providers in the State to obtain federal
28 authorization to prescribe narcotic drugs that are Schedule III, IV,
29 or V controlled dangerous substances for maintenance or
30 detoxification treatment;

31 c. Provide technical assistance and additional training to
32 physicians seeking to use medication-assisted treatment to treat
33 individuals with substance use disorders but who require or request
34 additional support in the use of medication-assisted treatment,
35 which support and assistance may include the use of telehealth and
36 telemedicine to provide remote consultations with addiction
37 medicine specialists; and

38 d. Provide outreach and support services to other health care
39 professionals, including, but not limited to, physician assistants,
40 advanced practice nurses, and certified nurse midwives, who seek to
41 provide medication assisted treatment, including prescribing
42 narcotic drugs that are Schedule III, IV, or V controlled dangerous
43 substances for maintenance or detoxification treatment.

44
45 3. The Board of Medical Examiners may, pursuant to the
46 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
47 seq.), adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions of
48 this act.

1 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill requires physicians to complete certain training required
7 to become authorized to prescribe certain forms of medication-
8 assisted treatment (MAT), and requires the State Board of Medical
9 Examiners (BME) to develop a program to promote the use of
10 MAT.

11 Specifically, the BME is to require that the curriculum in each
12 medical school in the State include instruction in the treatment and
13 management of opiate-dependent patients that meets the minimum
14 training requirements established pursuant to federal law for
15 physicians to be authorized to prescribe narcotic drugs that are
16 Schedule III, IV, or V controlled dangerous substances for
17 maintenance or detoxification treatment. Completing this
18 instruction will be a requirement for receiving a diploma from a
19 medical school in New Jersey. Medical schools will additionally be
20 required to offer this instruction as continuing education credit, and
21 physicians who did not complete the training in medical school will
22 be required to complete the continuing education training as a
23 condition for renewal of their professional license. The training
24 may count toward satisfaction of the physician's total continuing
25 medical education credit requirements.

26 Additionally, the BME, in consultation with the Commissioners
27 of Health and Human Services, will be required to develop a
28 program to promote the use of MAT. The program is to include an
29 education and outreach campaign to improve physician awareness
30 of the availability of MAT, provide information and resources
31 concerning the training and federal waiver requirements to become
32 authorized to prescribe and administer certain forms of MAT, and
33 advise physicians of the availability of MAT support services. In
34 addition, the program is to study and implement initiatives to
35 encourage physicians and other authorized health care providers in
36 the State to obtain federal authorization to prescribe narcotic drugs
37 that are Schedule III, IV, or V controlled dangerous substances for
38 maintenance or detoxification treatment. The program will also
39 include technical assistance and additional training to physicians
40 seeking to provide MAT, which support and assistance may include
41 the use of telehealth and telemedicine to provide remote
42 consultations with addiction medicine specialists. Finally, the
43 program is to provide outreach and support services to other health
44 care professionals, including, but not limited to, physician
45 assistants, advanced practice nurses, and certified nurse midwives,
46 who seek to provide MAT.