

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1213

H.P. 858

House of Representatives, March 26, 2013

An Act To Reduce Costs and Increase Access to Methadone Treatment

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative LOCKMAN of Amherst.
Cosponsored by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot, Senator CUSHING of Penobscot and
Representatives: CASSIDY of Lubec, FREY of Bangor, GOODE of Bangor, KORNFIELD of
Bangor, SCHNECK of Bangor.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §20010** is enacted to read:

3 **§20010. Methadone treatment**

4 The department shall take the following steps to reduce the cost of and increase
5 access to methadone treatment.

6 **1. Licensing.** The department shall license as a methadone treatment clinic a
7 federally qualified health center or other health care provider or medical practice that
8 applies for licensure and meets all state and federal requirements.

9 **2. Treatment location.** The department shall require that a member of the
10 MaineCare program under Title 22, chapter 855 who is eligible for services at a licensed
11 methadone treatment clinic enroll at the clinic closest to the residence of the person
12 unless the person is exempt from this requirement in accordance with rules adopted by
13 the department. The department shall work with licensed methadone treatment clinics to
14 facilitate access to services and distribution of services across the State.

15 **3. Rules.** The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted
16 pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
17 subchapter 2-A.

18 **Sec. 2. Rules.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall amend the
19 rules for licensed methadone treatment clinics to eliminate the requirement that the
20 centers be open for administration of methadone treatment on Sundays. Rules adopted
21 pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine Revised
22 Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The department shall work with current
23 clinics, potential licensees, federal parties and other stakeholder groups to address
24 barriers to providing this service that exist in rules and policies at local, state and national
25 levels.

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill proposes to decrease costs of and increase access to substance abuse
28 treatment services by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to increase
29 the number of federally qualified health centers that provide methadone treatment
30 services, to require enrollment at the clinic closest to the person's home and to work to
31 facilitate access to services and distribution of services across the State. The bill requires
32 the department to amend the methadone clinic rules to eliminate the requirement that the
33 centers be open for administration of methadone treatment on Sundays. The bill
34 designates the rules as routine technical rules. The department is required to work with
35 stakeholders to address current rules and policies that act as barriers to achieve the intent
36 of this legislation.