

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 524

S.P. 193

In Senate, February 26, 2015

**An Act To Start a Pilot Program for Medical Substitution
Treatment in a Local Community Setting**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative GOODE of Bangor and
Senators: ALFOND of Cumberland, DILL of Penobscot, Representatives: CAMPBELL of
Orrington, FREY of Bangor, LOCKMAN of Amherst, TIPPING-SPITZ of Orono, TUCKER
of Brunswick.

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 for methadone treatment
9 clinics.

10 **2. Treatment location.** The department shall work with licensed methadone
11 treatment clinics to facilitate distribution of and access to services across the State by:

12 A. Establishing a pilot location for medication-assisted treatment of narcotic
13 addiction using methadone, or other pharmacologic agents providing similar benefits,
14 in a rural area at least 30 miles from any currently licensed methadone treatment
15 clinic;

16 B. Exploring the use of physicians' offices or other facilities focused on the delivery
17 of health care as potential satellite methadone treatment sites;

18 C. Exploring the use of mobile methadone treatment facilities; and

19 D. Using funds saved by reductions in MaineCare transportation costs due to new
20 treatment locations to improve access to methadone treatment in rural areas of the
21 State.

22 The department shall work with other agencies and organizations to develop job,
23 vocational and career opportunities for those receiving treatment in their local
24 communities.

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

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

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SUMMARY

2 This bill proposes to decrease the cost of and increase access to substance abuse
3 treatment services by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to increase
4 the number of federally qualified health centers that provide methadone treatment
5 services, to establish a pilot clinic location in a rural area at least 30 miles from any
6 currently licensed methadone treatment clinic and to work to facilitate access to services
7 and distribution of services across the State. The bill requires the department to amend
8 the methadone clinic rules to eliminate the requirement that the centers be open for
9 administration of methadone treatment on Sundays. The bill designates the rules as
10 routine technical rules. The department is required to work with stakeholders to address
11 current rules and policies that act as barriers to achieve the intent of this legislation.