

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 114

H.P. 82

House of Representatives, January 17, 2017

An Act To Increase the Number of Suboxone Prescribers

Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Senator BREEN of Cumberland and Representatives: AUSTIN of Skowhegan, DOORE of Augusta, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, O'NEIL of Saco, RYKERSON of Kittery, SPEAR of South Thomaston, TIPPING of Orono, WARREN of Hallowell.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §2594-E, sub-§5, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 242, §3, is
3 amended to read:

4 D. Scope of practice for physician assistants, including prescribing of controlled
5 drugs and treating opioid dependency with buprenorphine products;

6 **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §2594-E, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

7 **6. Waiver application for buprenorphine.** A physician assistant licensed and
8 registered pursuant to this section whose scope of practice includes prescribing opioid
9 medication and who is authorized under federal law to be eligible for a waiver from the
10 federal Drug Enforcement Administration for treating opioid dependency with
11 buprenorphine products shall apply for the waiver for the purpose of treating opioid
12 dependency with buprenorphine products.

13 **Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §2600-D** is enacted to read:

14 **§2600-D. Waiver application for buprenorphine**

15 An individual licensed under this chapter whose scope of practice includes
16 prescribing opioid medication shall obtain a physician waiver from the federal Drug
17 Enforcement Administration for the purpose of treating opioid dependency with
18 buprenorphine products.

19 **Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §3270-E, sub-§5, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 242, §5, is
20 amended to read:

21 D. Scope of practice for physician assistants, including prescribing of controlled
22 drugs and treating opioid dependency with buprenorphine products;

23 **Sec. 5. 32 MRSA §3270-E, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

24 **6. Waiver application for buprenorphine.** A physician assistant licensed and
25 registered pursuant to this section whose scope of practice includes prescribing opioid
26 medication and who is authorized under federal law to be eligible for a waiver from the
27 federal Drug Enforcement Administration for treating opioid dependency with
28 buprenorphine products shall apply for the waiver for the purpose of treating opioid
29 dependency with buprenorphine products.

30 **Sec. 6. 32 MRSA §3300-G** is enacted to read:

31 **§3300-G. Waiver application for buprenorphine**

32 An individual licensed under this chapter whose scope of practice includes
33 prescribing opioid medication shall obtain a physician waiver from the federal Drug
34 Enforcement Administration for the purpose of treating opioid dependency with
35 buprenorphine products.

1 **Sec. 7. MaineCare reimbursement rates for buprenorphine-medication-**
2 **assisted treatment of substance use disorder.** The Department of Health and
3 Human Services shall increase reimbursement rates under the MaineCare program for
4 buprenorphine-medication-assisted treatment, including prescriptions and accompanying
5 behavioral health services, such as case management, counseling and drug testing, by
6 30% no later than January 1, 2018.

7 **SUMMARY**

8 This bill requires osteopathic and allopathic physicians whose scope of practice
9 includes prescribing opioid medication to obtain a physician waiver from the federal
10 Drug Enforcement Administration to treat opioid dependency using buprenorphine
11 products. It also requires physician assistants whose scope of practice includes
12 prescribing opioid medication to apply for a waiver as long as they are authorized under
13 federal law. The bill also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to
14 increase reimbursement rates under the MaineCare program for buprenorphine-
15 medication-assisted treatment including prescriptions and accompanying services by 30%
16 no later than January 1, 2018.