

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 663

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H.P. 490

House of Representatives, March 3, 2021

**An Act To Make Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder Treatment  
Available to Maine's Incarcerated Population**

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Received by the Clerk of the House on March 1, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative WARREN of Hallowell.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 34-A MRSA §1402, sub-§10-A** is enacted to read:

3 **10-A. Substance use disorder treatment program.** The commissioner, in  
4 conjunction with the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the director of the  
5 office of behavioral health within the Department of Health and Human Services, shall  
6 establish and maintain a comprehensive substance use disorder treatment program in the  
7 correctional facilities, which must, at a minimum:

8 A. Provide for an evidence-based substance use disorder screening and assessment for  
9 each client upon intake to determine the risk of overdose or withdrawal and to  
10 determine treatment options;

11 B. Provide medically managed withdrawal from benzodiazepines, stimulants, alcohol,  
12 heroin and other opioids pursuant to evidence-based medical standards;

13 C. Provide for all medication-assisted treatment options approved by the United States  
14 Food and Drug Administration for clients with substance use disorder, including  
15 alcohol use disorder and opioid use disorder, for treatment of withdrawal, for  
16 maintenance therapy and for relapse prevention;

17 D. Include comprehensive behavioral treatment options for clients that involve  
18 recovery groups, individual and group counseling and clinical support;

19 E. Coordinate with representatives of local recovery communities, medical providers  
20 and other appropriate persons to offer case management, transitional and peer support,  
21 medication management, reentry planning and comprehensive treatment options to  
22 clients after release;

23 F. Provide initial and ongoing training and technical assistance for correctional staff  
24 and health care providers in each correctional facility to carry out the purposes of the  
25 program; and

26 G. Track data and outcomes of clients to understand the effectiveness of the program.

27 A health care provider working inside the department must be capable of providing all  
28 relevant medications and services included in this subsection and establish connections  
29 with community-based providers to ensure continuity of care for each client.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill requires the Commissioner of Corrections to establish and maintain a  
32 substance use disorder treatment program in the correctional facilities, which must provide  
33 for substance use disorder screening and assessment on intake, medically managed  
34 withdrawal, all medication-assisted treatment options approved by the United States Food  
35 and Drug Administration and comprehensive behavioral treatment options, and coordinate  
36 with representatives of local recovery communities, medical providers and others for  
37 reentry planning and comprehensive treatment options after release. This bill requires  
38 initial and ongoing training to correctional staff and health care providers in each facility  
39 and tracking of data and outcomes and also requires that health care providers within the  
40 facilities be able to carry out all requirements of the program.