



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 365

February Session, 2026



AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BRIDGE PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT AND RECOVERY NAVIGATION FOR PERSONS WITH AN OPIOID USE DISORDER.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

2 (1) "Bridging prescription" means a temporary, short-term
3 prescription issued to ensure continuity of medication while a patient
4 awaits specialized care;

5 (2) "Buprenorphine" means a synthetic opiate with partial agonist
6 actions used in the treatment of opioid use disorder;

7 (3) "Community provider" means a health care provider that is
8 licensed and equipped to administer buprenorphine or methadone;

9 (4) "Last-dose letter" means a formal, sealed document provided by a
10 hospital to a patient that confirms the exact date, time and amount of
11 the last dose of methadone administered to the patient;

12 (5) "Methadone" means a controlled, long-acting full opioid agonist
13 medication used in the treatment of opioid use disorder;

14 (6) "Opioid antagonist" means naloxone hydrochloride or any other

15 similarly acting and equally safe drug approved by the federal Food and
16 Drug Administration for the treatment of a drug overdose;

17 (7) "Opioid use disorder" means a medical condition characterized by
18 a problematic pattern of opioid use and misuse leading to clinically
19 significant impairment or distress; and

20 (8) "Treatment program" means a program operated by the
21 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services or approved by
22 the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services for
23 treatment of the physical and psychological effects of drug dependency
24 or for the detoxification of a drug-dependent person, as defined in
25 section 17a-680 of the general statutes.

26 (b) On and after January 1, 2027, each hospital licensed pursuant to
27 chapter 368v of the general statutes shall (1) administer buprenorphine
28 or methadone to each patient presenting to the hospital's emergency
29 department with symptoms of opioid use disorder without requiring
30 the admission of the patient to the hospital for the sole purpose of such
31 administration, provided (A) the administration of buprenorphine or
32 methadone is clinically indicated, and (B) the patient consents to such
33 administration, (2) offer the patient a prescription for or a supply of an
34 opioid antagonist at the time of such patient's discharge from the
35 emergency department and, if the patient accepts the offer, provide the
36 patient with such prescription or dispense an opioid antagonist to the
37 patient, and (3) refer the patient to one or more local treatment programs
38 or community providers, provided the hospital shall refer a patient to
39 whom the hospital administered methadone to a treatment program or
40 community provider that administers methadone. If a hospital
41 administers buprenorphine to a patient under this subsection, the
42 hospital shall provide the patient with a bridging prescription for
43 buprenorphine for the time period during which the patient will be
44 awaiting treatment from the local treatment program or community
45 provider to which the hospital refers the patient. If a hospital
46 administers methadone to a patient under this subsection, the hospital
47 shall provide the patient with a last-dose letter to provide to the local

48 treatment program or community provider to which the hospital refers
49 the patient.

50 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to (1) require the
51 provision of any medication when clinically contraindicated, (2) limit
52 the exercise of professional judgment by a treating clinician, or (3)
53 preclude the use of any medication other than buprenorphine or
54 methadone for opioid use disorder when such medication is clinically
55 indicated and the patient consents to the administration of such
56 medication.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	New section

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*