
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 365

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

SUMMARY

Starting January 1, 2027, this bill requires hospitals to administer buprenorphine or methadone to a patient who presents to the emergency department with symptoms of opioid use disorder without requiring the patient to be admitted solely to do so. Under the bill, hospitals must do this only if administering the medication is medically indicated and the patient consents to it.

Additionally, the bill requires hospitals to (1) offer these patients a prescription for or a supply of an opioid antagonist (e.g., Narcan) when they are discharged from the emergency department (and provide it if they accept the offer) and (2) refer them to local community providers licensed and equipped to administer these medications or Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services-operated or -approved treatment programs. For the latter, hospitals must refer patients administered methadone to a treatment program or community provider that administers the medication.

Under the bill, hospitals must give patients administered buprenorphine a bridging prescription for the medication to cover the time during which they are waiting to be seen by their referred community provider or treatment program. For patients administered methadone, hospitals must give them a last-dose letter to give to their referred program or provider. (A "last-dose letter" is a formal, sealed document that confirms the exact date, time, and amount of the patient's last methadone dose.)

The bill expressly provides that it does not (1) require providers to give these medications when medically contraindicated, (2) limit a

treating clinician's ability to exercise professional judgement, or (3) prevent the use of other medications to treat opioid use disorder when it is clinically appropriate and the patient consents to it.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 11 (03/09/2026)