
H.B. 207 INMATE TREATMENT AMENDMENTS: MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT IN JAILS



WHAT IS MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT)?

- Using FDA-approved medications methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone to treat individuals with opioid use disorders in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies.
- Pros:
 - Backed by extensive research; very heavily evidence-based
 - Increases likelihood of successful treatment
 - Reduces morbidity and mortality
 - Reduces recidivism and stems cycle of arrest, incarceration, and release
 - Reduces criminal justice system costs
 - Minimizes risk of post-release overdose and death
- Cons:
 - Can be tricky to figure out details



BILL ORIGIN & LEGISLATIVE HISTORY



WHAT DOES THE BILL DO?

- 2022's HB 207 Inmate Treatment Amendments (Watkins) requires a sheriff to “allow and admit medical personnel to continue a state-approved medication assisted treatment plan for a prisoner if the prisoner was an active client prior to arrest and commitment”.
- This bill did NOT pass the 2022 Legislative Session because we asked Representative Watkins to hold it so we could work out the kinks.
- What are the kinks?

POTENTIAL ISSUES

- Opposition to methadone in jails
- Jails not outfitted properly
- Medical contract issues
- Security – who can enter jails and how to keep MAT inmates and correctional officers safe – jails should retain control
- Funding
- Medicaid withdrawing funding from incarcerated individuals
- Administration of MAT
- Others?



LET'S DISCUSS SOLUTIONS

