



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 9300



Offered by:

REP. STEINBERG, 136th Dist.

SEN. DAUGHERTY ABRAMS, 13th Dist.

SEN. SOMERS, 18th Dist.

To: House Bill No. 5597

File No. 410

Cal. No. 311

"AN ACT CONCERNING OPIODS."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Mental Health and
5 Addiction Services;

6 (2) "Department" means the "Department of Mental Health and
7 Addiction Services;

8 (3) "Opioid use disorder" means a medical condition characterized by
9 a problematic pattern of opioid use and misuse leading to clinically
10 significant impairment or distress; and

11 (4) "Peer navigator" means a community health worker certified
12 pursuant to section 20-195ttt of the general statutes who has experience

13 working with persons with substance use disorder, as defined in section
14 20-74 of the general statutes.

15 (b) On or before January 1, 2022, the department shall establish,
16 within available appropriations, a pilot program to provide financial
17 assistance in the form of a grant-in-aid to urban, suburban and rural
18 communities to serve persons with opioid use disorder in such
19 communities. The pilot program shall provide such assistance in up to
20 five such communities. The department shall award such grants-in-aid
21 in accordance with such terms and conditions as the commissioner may
22 prescribe.

23 (c) Each community that is awarded a grant-in-aid under subsection
24 (b) of this section shall establish a team of at least one peer navigator
25 and one health care professional authorized to prescribe medications to
26 treat opioid use disorder. The team shall work in the community to (1)
27 increase engagement between providers of treatment services, health
28 care and social services and persons with opioid use disorder, (2)
29 improve the retention of such persons in treatment for opioid use
30 disorder by addressing social determinants of health of such persons
31 and emerging local conditions that affect such social determinants of
32 health, (3) increase the capacity of the community to support such
33 persons by identifying and addressing systemic barriers to treatment
34 services, health care, social services and social support of such persons.
35 The team shall (A) travel throughout the community to address, in
36 person, the health care and social needs of persons with opioid use
37 disorder, and (B) be accessible to such persons through (i) a telephone
38 number that has texting capabilities, and (ii) social media. Each peer
39 navigator that participates in the pilot program shall receive regularly
40 updated training, as determined by the commissioner, on noncoercive
41 and nonstigmatizing methods for engaging those with opioid use
42 disorder.

43 (d) On or before January 1, 2023, the commissioner shall report, in
44 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
45 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having

46 cognizance of matters relating to public health regarding the success of
47 the pilot program in serving persons with opioid use disorder and any
48 recommendations for continuing the pilot program or expanding the
49 pilot program into other communities in the state."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section