



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 365

LCO No. 1465



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

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

4 (2) "Opioid antagonist" means naloxone hydrochloride or any other
5 similarly acting and equally safe drug approved by the federal Food and
6 Drug Administration for the treatment of a drug overdose;

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

10 (4) "Treatment program" means a program operated by the
11 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services or approved by
12 the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services for

13 treatment of the physical and psychological effects of drug dependency
14 or for the detoxification of a drug-dependent person, as defined in
15 section 17a-680 of the general statutes.

16 (b) On and after January 1, 2027, each hospital licensed pursuant to
17 chapter 368v of the general statutes shall (1) administer buprenorphine
18 to each patient presenting to the hospital's emergency department with
19 symptoms of opioid use disorder without requiring the admission of
20 such patient to the hospital for the sole purpose of such administration,
21 provided (A) the administration of buprenorphine is medically
22 indicated, and (B) the patient consents to such administration, (2)
23 provide such patient with a supply of opioid antagonists at the time of
24 such patient's discharge from the emergency department, and (3) refer
25 such patient to one or more local treatment programs.

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

Statement of Purpose:

To require hospitals to (1) treat patients presenting to the emergency department with symptoms of opioid use disorder with buprenorphine without requiring admission of the patient to the hospital, (2) discharge such patients from the emergency department with a supply of opioid antagonists, and (3) refer such patients to local substance use disorder treatment programs.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]