

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 653

Introduced by Assembly Member Waldron

February 12, 2021

An act to add and repeal Article 6 (commencing with Section 6047) to Chapter 5 of Title 7 of Part 3 of the Penal Code, relating to medication-assisted treatment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 653, as introduced, Waldron. Medication-Assisted Treatment Grant Program.

Existing law requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, under the oversight of the Undersecretary of Health Care Services, to establish a 3-year pilot program at one or more institutions that will provide a medically assisted substance use disorder treatment model for treatment of inmates with a history of substance use problems. Existing law requires the department, in establishing the program, to consider specified treatment components, including, among others, access to medication-assisted treatment throughout the period of incarceration up to and including immediately prior to release.

This bill would establish, until January 1, 2026, the Medication-Assisted Treatment Grant Program, to be administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections. The bill would require the board to award grants, on a competitive basis, to counties and would authorize counties that receive grants to use grant funds for various purposes relating to the treatment of substance use disorders and the provision of medication-assisted treatment. The bill would require counties that receive grants pursuant to these provisions to collect and maintain data relating to the effectiveness of the program and would

require the board, by July 1, 2025, to submit a report to the Legislature describing the activities funded by the grant program and the success of those activities in reducing drug overdoses and recidivism by jail inmates and persons under criminal justice supervision.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Article 6 (commencing with Section 6047) is
2 added to Chapter 5 of Title 7 of Part 3 of the Penal Code, to read:

3
4 Article 6. Medication-Assisted Treatment Grant Program

5
6 6047. For the purposes of this article, the following terms have
7 the following meanings:

8 (a) “Criminal justice supervision” means probation, postrelease
9 community supervision, and mandatory supervision.

10 (b) “Medication-assisted treatment” means the use of United
11 States Food and Drug Administration approved medically assisted
12 therapy to treat a substance use disorder and that, whenever
13 possible, is provided through a program licensed or certified by
14 the State Department of Health Care Services.

15 6047.1. (a) The Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Grant
16 Program is hereby created and shall be administered by the Board
17 of State and Community Corrections.

18 (b) The board shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to
19 counties, as authorized by this article. The board shall establish
20 minimum standards, funding schedules, and procedures for
21 awarding grants.

22 (c) MAT Grant Program funds may be used by recipient counties
23 for one or more of the following activities:

24 (1) Salaries and related costs for the placement of substance use
25 disorder counselors in county jails that provide medication-assisted
26 treatment to inmates with a substance use disorder.

27 (2) Doses of medication related to substance use disorder for
28 inmates to take home upon release from county jail.

29 (3) Funding for services provided pursuant to contracts between
30 county jail health providers and narcotic treatment providers.

1 (4) Mobile crisis teams of behavioral health professionals that
2 can respond with law enforcement to mental health or other health
3 crisis calls in order to connect individuals under criminal justice
4 supervision with medication-assisted treatment resources.

5 (5) Salary and related costs for providing medication-assisted
6 treatment for persons who are under criminal justice supervision.

7 (d) (1) Counties that receive grants pursuant to this article shall
8 collect and maintain data pertaining to the effectiveness of the
9 program, as indicated by the board in the request for proposals,
10 including data on drug overdoses of, and the rate of recidivism
11 for, inmates and persons under criminal justice supervision who
12 receive services funded by grant moneys.

13 (2) (A) Information relating to the rate of recidivism that shall
14 be collected and maintained pursuant to this subdivision includes
15 all of the following, as they relate to inmates or persons under
16 criminal justice supervision who receive services funded pursuant
17 to this article:

18 (i) The number and percentage who were sentenced to jail or
19 prison within three years after being released from a jail sentence
20 in which they were provided services funded pursuant to this
21 article, or for persons under criminal justice supervision, after
22 having been provided with services that were funded pursuant to
23 this article.

24 (ii) The number and percentage who were convicted of a
25 misdemeanor or a felony within three years after being released
26 from a jail sentence in which they were provided services funded
27 pursuant to this article, or for persons under criminal justice
28 supervision, after having been provided with services that were
29 funded pursuant to this article.

30 (iii) The number and percentage who were arrested for a crime
31 or who have had their parole, probation, mandatory supervision,
32 or postrelease community supervision revoked within three years
33 after being released from a jail sentence in which they were
34 provided services funded pursuant to this article, or for persons
35 under criminal justice supervision, after having been provided with
36 services that were funded pursuant to this article.

37 (B) A county that receives a grant pursuant to this article shall
38 include recidivism data for persons released from jail, or under
39 criminal justice supervision, who received services pursuant to

1 this article less than three years prior to any reporting period
2 established by the board pursuant to paragraph (4).

3 (3) A county that receives a grant pursuant to this article may
4 use state summary criminal history information, as defined in
5 Section 11105, or local summary criminal history information, as
6 defined in Section 13300, to collect data as required by the board.

7 (4) The board may establish a deadline by which counties that
8 receive grants pursuant to this article are required to submit data
9 collected and maintained pursuant to this subdivision to the board
10 to enable the board to comply with the reporting requirement in
11 Section 6047.2.

12 6047.2. On or before July 1, 2025, the board shall compile a
13 report describing the activities funded pursuant to this article, and
14 the success of those activities in reducing drug overdoses and
15 recidivism by jail inmates and persons under criminal justice
16 supervision. The report shall be submitted to the Legislature
17 pursuant to Section 9795 of the Government Code.

18 6047.3. This article shall be operative only to the extent that
19 funding is provided, by express reference, in the annual Budget
20 Act or another statute for the purposes of this article.

21 6047.4. This article shall remain in effect only until January
22 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.