

**SENATE, No. 4181**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 4, 2023

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator NELLIE POU**  
**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “Remote Methadone Dosing Pilot Program;” appropriates \$225,000.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning opioid treatment programs, supplementing Title  
2 26 of the Revised Statutes and making an appropriation.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6  
7 1. As used in this act:

8 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Human Services.

9 “Department” means the Department of Human Services.

10 “Division” means the Division of Mental Health and Addiction  
11 Services in the Department of Human Services.

12 “Opioid treatment program” means a program certified as an  
13 opioid treatment program by the federal Substance Abuse and  
14 Mental Health Services Administration and licensed to operate as  
15 an opioid treatment program in this State by the Department of  
16 Human Services.

17 “Pilot program” means the Remote Methadone Dosing Pilot  
18 Program established by this act.

19 “Remote methadone dosing” means the use of telehealth and  
20 telemedicine to remotely monitor a patient’s methadone-based  
21 treatment, which treatment is administered in the form of take-home  
22 doses of methadone.

23

24 2. a. The Department of Human Services shall establish a three-  
25 year Remote Methadone Dosing Pilot Program. The goal of the  
26 program will be: to increase the compliance of, and reduce the costs  
27 of providing, medication assisted treatment provided by  
28 participating opioid treatment programs through the use of remote  
29 methadone dosing; to evaluate the effect remote methadone dosing  
30 has on patient outcomes and cost-savings in the treatment of opioid  
31 use disorder; and to develop any recommendations for legislative or  
32 regulatory action concerning whether remote methadone dosing  
33 should be implemented in opioid treatment programs in this State.

34 b. The division shall select one opioid treatment program each  
35 in the cities of Atlantic City, Camden, and Paterson to participate in  
36 the pilot program.

37 c. In accordance with applicable federal and State laws and  
38 when clinically appropriate, each opioid treatment program  
39 participating in the pilot program shall be authorized to utilize  
40 remote methadone dosing to treat a patient who is receiving  
41 methadone-based treatment and is eligible to receive take-home  
42 doses of methadone. In treating patients using remote methadone  
43 dosing, participating opioid treatment programs shall utilize a  
44 provider of an online-enabled technology application, service,  
45 website, or system that facilitates remote methadone dosing  
46 approved by the department.

47 d. Under no circumstances shall the State or an opioid treatment  
48 program require that a patient participate in the pilot program.

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1 e. Each opioid treatment program participating in the pilot  
2 program shall annually report to the department, in a manner  
3 prescribed by the commissioner, information on patient outcomes  
4 and cost-savings as a result of the pilot program, including  
5 information on:

6 (a) the number of patients treated using remote methadone  
7 dosing;

8 (b) treatment compliance;

9 (c) the average time each patient spends being treated using  
10 remote methadone dosing;

11 (d) patient retention;

12 (e) any realized reduction in medical transportation costs; and

13 (f) any other information the department deems relevant in  
14 evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program.

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16 3. The Department of Human Services shall, no later than four  
17 years after the date the program is established, prepare and submit  
18 to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164  
19 (C.52:14-19.1) to the Legislature, a report that shall include:

20 a. an analysis on the impact of the pilot program on patient  
21 outcomes and cost-savings using the information collected pursuant  
22 to subsection e. of section 2 of this act;

23 b. any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action  
24 concerning the potential expansion of remote methadone dosing in  
25 opioid treatment programs in this State; and

26 c. any other information the department deems relevant in  
27 evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program.

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29 4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
30 Department of Human Services the sum of \$225,000 to implement  
31 the provisions of this act. The department shall issue a grant in the  
32 amount of \$75,000 to each opioid treatment program selected to  
33 participate in the Remote Methadone Dosing Pilot Program to  
34 effectuate the provisions of this act.

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36 5. The Commissioner of Human Services and the Commissioner  
37 of Health may each adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the  
38 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
39 seq.), as are necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

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41 6. This act shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment.

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**STATEMENT**

45

46 This bill establishes the Remote Methadone Dosing Pilot  
47 Program in the Department of Human Services (DHS). The goal of  
48 the program will be: to increase the compliance of, and reduce the

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1 costs of providing, medication assisted treatment provided by  
2 participating opioid treatment programs (OTP) through the use of  
3 remote methadone dosing; to evaluate the effect remote methadone  
4 dosing has on patient outcomes and cost-savings in the treatment of  
5 opioid use disorder; and to develop any recommendations for  
6 legislative or regulatory action concerning whether remote  
7 methadone dosing should be implemented in opioid treatment  
8 programs in this State.

9 The bill defines “remote methadone dosing” to mean the use of  
10 telehealth and telemedicine to remotely monitor a patient’s  
11 methadone-based treatment, which treatment is administered in the  
12 form of take-home doses of methadone.

13 Under this bill, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction  
14 Services in the DHS will select one OTP each from the cities of  
15 Atlantic City, Camden, and Paterson to participate in the program.  
16 In accordance with applicable federal and State laws and when  
17 clinically appropriate, each OTP participating in the pilot program  
18 will be authorized to utilize remote methadone dosing to treat a  
19 patient who is receiving methadone-based treatment and is eligible  
20 to receive take-home doses of methadone. In treating patients using  
21 remote methadone dosing, participating OTPs will utilize a provider  
22 of an online-enabled technology application, service, website, or  
23 system that facilitates remote methadone dosing approved by the  
24 department. Under no circumstances will the State or an opioid  
25 treatment program require that a patient participate in the pilot  
26 program.

27 Each participating OTP will be required to annually report to the  
28 department information on patient outcomes and cost-savings as a  
29 result of the pilot program, including information on: the number  
30 of patients treated using remote methadone dosing; treatment  
31 compliance; the average time each patient spends being treated  
32 using remote methadone dosing; patient retention; any realized  
33 reduction in medical transportation costs; and any other  
34 information the department deems relevant in evaluating the  
35 effectiveness of the pilot program.

36 The bill requires DHS, no later than four years after the date the  
37 program is established, to prepare and submit to the Governor and  
38 Legislature a report that includes: an analysis on the impact of the  
39 pilot program on patient outcomes and cost-savings using the  
40 information received from participating OTPs; any  
41 recommendations for legislative or regulatory action concerning the  
42 potential expansion of remote methadone dosing in OTPs in this  
43 State; and any other information the department deems relevant in  
44 evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program

45 The bill is appropriates \$225,000 from the General Fund to the  
46 DHS. The department will then issue a grant in the amount of  
47 \$75,000 to each participating OTP to effectuate the provisions of  
48 the bill.