

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2191**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

---

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex and Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Azzariti Jr. and Atkins**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee with technical review.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/9/2024)**

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.

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.

15

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.

28

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.

35

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.

40

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