

AN ACT RELATIVE TO SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER, DIVERSION, AND TREATMENT

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Massachusetts ranks among the top 8 states with the highest levels of "illicit drug use" for adults ages 26 and older.

More than 10,000 individuals have died due to opioid related overdoses in MA since 2000.

Mass Organization for
Addiction Recovery

Sources:

www.facingaddiction.org

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"Substance use disorders represent one of the most pressing public health crises of our time....We must help everyone see that addiction is not a character flaw – it is a **chronic illness** that we must approach with the same skill and compassion with which we approach heart disease, diabetes, and cancer " *Surgeon General Vivak Murthy , "Facing Addiction in America"*



Passage of bill would:

30 day treatment coverage – Ch. 258 of 2014 required insurance companies to cover at least 14 days of treatment at ATS (detox) and CSS (clinical stabilization services) levels of care. This new legislation **builds on Chapter 258 and ensures adequate access to the full continuum of substance use disorder treatment by requiring insurance companies to cover at least 30 days of detox, CSS, AND TSS (transitional support services).**

Standardized court diversion process - Creates a new pathway to treatment for court-involved folks struggling with substance use disorder. A person charged (pre-adjudication) with a 1st or 2nd drug offense can request an evaluation from an addiction specialist and, if the specialist decides the person will benefit from treatment, the judge must issue a stay order on all proceedings and the individual will be diverted to substance use treatment. The courts may then take treatment progress into account when adjudicating the case.

Good Samaritan protections – Expands legal protections to ensure those who seek help for someone at risk of overdose **WILL NOT be subject to execution of a warrant for a non-violent drug offense.**

Drug stewardship - The STEP Act (Ch. 52 of 2016) required drug manufacturers to establish drug takeback programs. This new legislation **requires the programs to include drug collection kiosks at every chain pharmacy location**, so that consumers across the state will be able to easily dispose of old medications.