

HOUSE No. 4958

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 28, 2026.

The committee on Financial Services, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1337) of Andres X. Vargas and Kate Donaghue relative to opioid use disorder treatment and rehabilitation, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4958) ought to pass.

For the committee,

JAMES M. MURPHY.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to opioid use disorder treatment and rehabilitation coverage.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 17Z the following new section:-

3 Section 17AA. (a) Coverage offered by the commission to an active or retired employee
4 of the commonwealth insured under the group insurance commission shall provide coverage for
5 prescribed or dispensed opioid antagonists and opioid agonists, including partial agonists, used in
6 the treatment of opioid use disorder; provided, however that the coverage for such prescribed,
7 administered, ordered or dispensed opioid antagonists and opioid agonists, including partial
8 agonists, shall be deemed medically necessary and shall not require prior authorization; and
9 provided further that a prescription from a health care practitioner shall not be required for
10 coverage of opioid antagonists and opioid agonists, including partial agonists. An opioid
11 antagonist and an opioid agonist, including partial agonists, shall not be subject to any
12 deductible, coinsurance, copayments or out-of-pocket limits; provided, however, that cost-
13 sharing shall be required if the applicable plan is governed by the Internal Revenue Code and
14 would lose its tax-exempt status as a result of the prohibition on cost-sharing for this service.

(b) The commission shall provide coverage for an opioid antagonist and an opioid agonist, including partial agonists, used in the treatment of opioid use disorder as a medical benefit when dispensed or administered by the health care facility, including substance use treatment facility, in which the opioid antagonist or opioid agonist, including partial agonists, used in the treatment of opioid use disorder was prescribed, administered, or ordered and shall provide coverage as a pharmacy benefit for an opioid antagonist and an opioid agonist, including partial agonists, used in the treatment of opioid use disorder dispensed by a pharmacist; provided, however, that the rate to be reimbursed under the medical benefit shall not exceed the commission's average in-network pharmacy benefit rate and the health care facility shall not balance bill the patient. If dispensed directly to or administered to the patient, the commission shall ensure cost to the health care facility is covered through reimbursement or other mechanism as determined by the commission in consultation with the department of public health, the division of insurance, and the division of medical assistance.

28 SECTION 2. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
29 section 10Z the following new section:-

30 Section 10AA. (a) The division and its contracted health insurers, health plans, health
31 maintenance organizations, behavioral health management firms and third-party administrators
32 under contract to a Medicaid managed care organization, accountable care organization or
33 primary care clinician plan shall provide coverage for prescribed or dispensed opioid antagonists
34 and opioid agonists, including partial agonists, used in the treatment of opioid use disorder;
35 provided, however that the coverage for such prescribed, administered, ordered or dispensed
36 opioid antagonists and opioid agonists, including partial agonists, shall be deemed medically
37 necessary and shall not require prior authorization; and provided further that a prescription from

38 a health care practitioner shall not be required for coverage of opioid antagonists and opioid
39 agonists, including partial agonists. An opioid antagonist and an opioid agonist, including partial
40 agonists, shall not be subject to any deductible, coinsurance, copayments or out-of-pocket limits;
41 provided, however, that cost-sharing shall be required if the applicable plan is governed by the
42 Internal Revenue Code and would lose its tax-exempt status as a result of the prohibition on cost-
43 sharing for this service.

44 (b) The division and its contracted health insurers, health plans, health maintenance
45 organizations, behavioral health management firms and third-party administrators under contract
46 to a Medicaid managed care organization, accountable care organization or primary care
47 clinician plan shall provide coverage for an opioid antagonist and an opioid agonist, including
48 partial agonists, used in the treatment of opioid use disorder as a medical benefit when dispensed
49 or administered by the health care facility, including substance use treatment facility, in which
50 the opioid antagonist or opioid agonist, including partial agonists, used in the treatment of opioid
51 use disorder was prescribed, administered, or ordered and shall provide coverage as a pharmacy
52 benefit for an opioid antagonist and an opioid agonist, including partial agonists, used in the
53 treatment of opioid use disorder dispensed by a pharmacist; provided, however, that the rate to
54 be reimbursed under the medical benefit shall not exceed the carrier's average in-network
55 pharmacy benefit rate and the health care facility shall not balance bill the patient. If dispensed
56 directly to or administered to the patient, the division shall ensure cost to the health care facility
57 is covered through reimbursement or other mechanism as determined by the commission in
58 consultation with the department of public health and the division of insurance.

59 SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting before
60 section 47CCC the following new section:-

61 Section 47AAA. (a) Any blanket or general policy of insurance described in subdivision
62 (A), (C), or (D) of section one hundred and ten which is issued or subsequently renewed by
63 agreement between the insurer and the policyholder, within or without the commonwealth,
64 during the period within which this premium is effective, or any policy of accident or sickness
65 insurance as described in section one hundred and eight which provides hospital expense and
66 surgical expense insurance and which is delivered or issued for delivery or subsequently renewed
67 by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder in the commonwealth, during the period
68 within which this provision is effective, or any employers' health and welfare fund which
69 provides hospital expense and surgical expense benefits and which is issued or renewed to any
70 person or group of persons in the commonwealth, during the period within which this provision
71 is effective, shall provide coverage for prescribed or dispensed opioid antagonists and opioid
72 agonists, including partial agonists, used in the treatment of opioid use disorder; provided,
73 however that the coverage for such prescribed, administered, ordered or dispensed opioid
74 antagonists and opioid agonists, including partial agonists, shall be deemed medically necessary
75 and shall not require prior authorization; and provided further that a prescription from a health
76 care practitioner shall not be required for coverage of opioid antagonists and opioid agonists,
77 including partial agonists. An opioid antagonist and an opioid agonist, including partial agonists,
78 shall not be subject to any deductible, coinsurance, copayments or out-of-pocket limits;
79 provided, however, that cost-sharing shall be required if the applicable plan is governed by the
80 Internal Revenue Code and would lose its tax-exempt status as a result of the prohibition on cost-
81 sharing for this service.

82 (b) Any blanket or general policy of insurance described in subdivision (A), (C), or (D)
83 of section one hundred and ten which is issued or subsequently renewed by agreement between

84 the insurer and the policyholder, within or without the commonwealth, during the period within
85 which this premium is effective, or any policy of accident or sickness insurance as described in
86 section one hundred and eight which provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance
87 and which is delivered or issued for delivery or subsequently renewed by agreement between the
88 insurer and the policyholder in the commonwealth, during the period within which this provision
89 is effective, or any employers' health and welfare fund which provides hospital expense and
90 surgical expense benefits and which is issued or renewed to any person or group of persons in
91 the commonwealth, during the period within which this provision is effective, shall provide
92 coverage for an opioid antagonist and an opioid agonist, including partial agonists, used in the
93 treatment of opioid use disorder as a medical benefit when dispensed or administered by the
94 health care facility, including substance use treatment facility, in which the opioid antagonist or
95 opioid agonist, including partial agonists, used in the treatment of opioid use disorder was
96 prescribed, administered, or ordered and shall provide coverage as a pharmacy benefit for an
97 opioid antagonist and an opioid agonist, including partial agonists, used in the treatment of
98 opioid use disorder dispensed by a pharmacist; provided, however, that the rate to be reimbursed
99 under the medical benefit shall not exceed the carrier's average in-network pharmacy benefit rate
100 and the health care facility shall not balance bill the patient. If dispensed directly to or
101 administered to the patient, the division shall ensure cost to the health care facility is covered
102 through reimbursement or other mechanism as determined by the division in consultation with
103 the department of public health and the division of medical assistance.

104 SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
105 section 8DDD the following new section:-

106 Section 8EEE. (a) Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an

107 individual or group hospital service plan that is delivered, issued or renewed within the
108 commonwealth shall provide coverage for prescribed or dispensed opioid antagonists and
109 opioid agonists, including partial agonists, used in the treatment of opioid use disorder; provided,
110 however that the coverage for such prescribed, administered, ordered or dispensed opioid
111 antagonists and opioid agonists, including partial agonists, shall be deemed medically necessary
112 and shall not require prior authorization; and provided further that a prescription from a health
113 care practitioner shall not be required for coverage of opioid antagonists and opioid agonists,
114 including partial agonists. An opioid antagonist and an opioid agonist, including partial agonists,
115 shall not be subject to any deductible, coinsurance, copayments or out-of-pocket limits;
116 provided, however, that cost-sharing shall be required if the applicable plan is governed by the
117 Internal Revenue Code and would lose its tax-exempt status as a result of the prohibition on cost-
118 sharing for this service.

119 (b) Such contracts shall provide coverage for an opioid antagonist and an opioid agonist,
120 including partial agonists, used in the treatment of opioid use disorder as a medical benefit when
121 dispensed or administered by the health care facility, including substance use treatment facility,
122 in which the opioid antagonist or opioid agonist, including partial agonists, used in the treatment
123 of opioid use disorder was prescribed, administered, or ordered and shall provide coverage as a
124 pharmacy benefit for an opioid antagonist and an opioid agonist, including partial agonists, used
125 in the treatment of opioid use disorder dispensed by a pharmacist; provided, however, that the
126 rate to be reimbursed under the medical benefit shall not exceed the carrier's average in-network
127 pharmacy benefit rate and the health care facility shall not balance bill the patient. If dispensed
128 directly to or administered to the patient, the division shall ensure cost to the health care facility

129 is covered through reimbursement or other mechanism as determined by the division in
130 consultation with the department of public health and the division of medical assistance.

131 SECTION 5. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
132 section 4DDD the following new section:-

133 Section 4EEE. (a) A subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service
134 agreement delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth shall provide coverage
135 for prescribed or dispensed opioid antagonists and opioid agonists, including partial agonists,
136 used in the treatment of opioid use disorder; provided, however that the coverage for such
137 prescribed, administered, ordered or dispensed opioid antagonists and opioid agonists, including
138 partial agonists, shall be deemed medically necessary and shall not require prior authorization;
139 and provided further that a prescription from a health care practitioner shall not be required for
140 coverage of opioid antagonists and opioid agonists, including partial agonists. An opioid
141 antagonist and an opioid agonist, including partial agonists, shall not be subject to any
142 deductible, coinsurance, copayments or out-of-pocket limits; provided, however, that cost-
143 sharing shall be required if the applicable plan is governed by the Internal Revenue Code and
144 would lose its tax-exempt status as a result of the prohibition on cost-sharing for this service.

145 (b) The policy, contract, agreement, plan or certificate of insurance shall provide
146 coverage for an opioid antagonist and an opioid agonist, including partial agonists, used in the
147 treatment of opioid use disorder as a medical benefit when dispensed or administered by the
148 health care facility, including substance use treatment facility, in which the opioid antagonist or
149 opioid agonist, including partial agonists, used in the treatment of opioid use disorder was
150 prescribed, administered, or ordered and shall provide coverage as a pharmacy benefit for an

151 opioid antagonist and an opioid agonist, including partial agonists, used in the treatment of
152 opioid use disorder dispensed by a pharmacist; provided, however, that the rate to be reimbursed
153 under the medical benefit shall not exceed the carrier's average in-network pharmacy benefit rate
154 and the health care facility shall not balance bill the patient. If dispensed directly to or
155 administered to the patient, the division shall ensure cost to the health care facility is covered
156 through reimbursement or other mechanism as determined by the division in consultation with
157 the department of public health and the division of medical assistance.

158 SECTION 6. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
159 section 4VV the following new section:-

160 Section 4WW. (a) An individual or group health maintenance contract that is issued or
161 renewed within or without the commonwealth shall provide coverage for prescribed or
162 dispensed opioid antagonists and opioid agonists, including partial agonists, used in the treatment
163 of opioid use disorder; provided, however that the coverage for such prescribed, administered,
164 ordered or dispensed opioid antagonists and opioid agonists, including partial agonists, shall be
165 deemed medically necessary and shall not require prior authorization; and provided further that a
166 prescription from a health care practitioner shall not be required for coverage of opioid
167 antagonists and opioid agonists, including partial agonists. An opioid antagonist and an opioid
168 agonist, including partial agonists, shall not be subject to any deductible, coinsurance,
169 copayments or out-of-pocket limits; provided, however, that cost-sharing shall be required if the
170 applicable plan is governed by the Internal Revenue Code and would lose its tax-exempt status
171 as a result of the prohibition on cost-sharing for this service.

(b) The individual or group health maintenance contract shall provide coverage for an opioid antagonist and an opioid agonist, including partial agonists, used in the treatment of opioid use disorder as a medical benefit when dispensed or administered by the health care facility, including substance use treatment facility, in which the opioid antagonist or opioid agonist, including partial agonists, used in the treatment of opioid use disorder was prescribed, administered, or ordered and shall provide coverage as a pharmacy benefit for an opioid antagonist and an opioid agonist, including partial agonists, used in the treatment of opioid use disorder dispensed by a pharmacist; provided, however, that the rate to be reimbursed under the medical benefit shall not exceed the carrier's average in-network pharmacy benefit rate and the health care facility shall not balance bill the patient. If dispensed directly to or administered to the patient, the division shall ensure cost to the health care facility is covered through reimbursement or other mechanism as determined by the division in consultation with the department of public health and the division of medical assistance.