

**Joint Committee on Health Care Financing  
2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary**

**Bill Number:** House, No. 1379

**Title:** AN ACT EXEMPTING MEDICATIONS USED FOR THE TREATMENT OF OPIOID USE DISORDER FROM THE PRIOR APPROVAL PROCESS UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAID PROGRAM

**Sponsor:** Representative Michael P. Kushmerek (Fitchburg)

**Hearing Date:** July 1, 2025

**Reporting Deadline:** August 30, 2025

**Prior History:** New File

**Similar Matters:** N/A

**Current Law:**

**M.G.L. Chapter 118E §51A** establishes regulations to step therapy protocols, including step therapy exception criteria along with decision turnaround-time, continuity of care and reporting requirements. A “Step Therapy Protocol”, is a utilization management policy or program that establishes the specific sequence in which a prescription drug for a specified medical condition is covered by the division or an entity with which the division contracts to provide or manage health insurance benefits; provided, however, the provisions of such utilization management policy or program and any regulations requiring prior authorization for prescription drugs shall not apply to any medications prescribed by a health care provider for the treatment of opioid use disorder.

**Summary:**

This legislation amends the definition of “step therapy protocol” in section 51A of chapter 118E by exempting medications prescribed by healthcare providers for the treatment of opioid use disorder from going through the step therapy process.