

S 644

Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Mar 2, 2023

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 318.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 318. (Feb 1, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/644>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Braun, Mike [R-IN]	R · IN		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Sep 13, 2023
Sen. Welch, Peter [D-VT]	D · VT		Sep 13, 2023
Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]	R · UT		Nov 8, 2023
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Dec 4, 2023
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Dec 11, 2023
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Jan 24, 2024
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 9, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Reported By	Feb 1, 2024

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 1359	Identical bill	Mar 10, 2023: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act

This bill expands access to methadone for an individual's unsupervised use to treat opioid use disorder (OUD). (Typically, methadone must be dispensed to individuals in person through opioid treatment programs.)

The bill (1) waives provisions of the Controlled Substances Act that require qualified practitioners to obtain a separate registration from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to prescribe and dispense methadone to treat OUD, and (2) requires the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the DEA to jointly report on the waiver.

Additionally, the bill directs the DEA to register certain practitioners to prescribe methadone that is dispensed through a pharmacy for an individual's unsupervised use. Qualified practitioners must be licensed or authorized to prescribe controlled substances, and they must either work for an opioid treatment program or be a physician or psychiatrist with a specialty certification in addiction medicine. A state may request that the DEA stop registering such practitioners in its jurisdiction.

Individuals who receive methadone for unsupervised use must continue to have access to other care through an opioid treatment program.

For purposes of the waiver, the bill also requires the exclusive use of electronic prescribing, establishes prescription limits, and sets out requirements for informed consent. Further, the bill permits the use of telehealth to provide methadone treatment and related services if the state and the Department of Health and Human Services jointly determine the use is feasible and appropriate.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 1, 2024:** Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Reported by Senator Sanders with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Feb 1, 2024:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 318.
- **Dec 12, 2023:** Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Mar 2, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 2, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.