

Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB841 **Patron:** Favola
Bill Title: Board of Pharmacy; Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; opioid treatment programs; mobile units; report.

Bill Summary: Directs the Board of Pharmacy, in collaboration with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, to develop and implement a process by which opioid treatment programs can apply for and receive the necessary permissions and waivers to dispense opioid use disorder treatment medications from mobile units. The bill directs the Board to report to the Joint Commission on Health Care by November 1, 2025, on the status of and any barriers to the development and implementation of such process. This bill is a recommendation of the Joint Commission on Health Care.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** Item 295
Explanation: DBHDS will need funding for one part-time position beginning in FY 26 to comply with the requirements of this legislation, attributable to Item 295 (Administrative and Support Services). See table and fiscal analysis below.

Fiscal Summary: The proposed legislation is expected to have a minimal impact on the Board of Pharmacy that can be absorbed by existing resources. However, the proposed legislation will require expenditures on the part of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services for which they are not currently appropriated. See table and fiscal analysis below.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
DBHDS (720)	-	\$68,691	\$68,691	\$68,691	\$68,691	\$68,691
TOTAL	\$0	\$68,691	\$68,691	\$68,691	\$68,691	\$68,691

Fiscal Analysis: The Board of Pharmacy may experience minimal cost impacts from this legislation associated with collaborative process development and the production of a report for the Joint Commission on Health Care. It is expected that any such costs can be handled using existing resources.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) would require one part-time position to assist in the implementation of medication assisted treatment at mobile units. DBHDS employs the Commonwealth's designated State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) and is responsible for ensuring provider compliance with relevant federal and state laws and regulations, including conducting announced and unannounced visits and providing technical assistance to assist opioid treatment providers (OTPs) in complying with requirements. The Code of Federal Regulations Title 42, Part 8, Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders specifies the rules by which OTPs must abide to legally operate. Because this legislation would expand the scope of opioid treatment providers to mobile units, there will be additional staff

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time requirements to fulfil the duties of the SOTA. There is currently one full-time position tasked with this role for the existing 51 opioid treatment providers in the state.

The duties of this part-time position would require that the Department seek an individual who has several years of background experience working in an OTP with extensive knowledge of federal guidelines governing OTPs, and at minimum be a certified substance use counselor. The cost of a part-time position with these education and knowledge credentials is estimated at \$68,891 per year. This cost includes salary, fringe benefits, and other non-personnel costs related to operation, training, supplies, or travel.

Other: n/a