

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 681
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10238-MG-107

Short Title: Update Opioid Abatement Treatment Prog. Rules. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Crawford.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT DIRECTING THE COMMISSION FOR MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL
3 DISABILITIES, AND SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES TO AMEND THE RULES
4 REGARDING OUTPATIENT OPIOID TREATMENT PROGRAMS FOR GREATER
5 CONSISTENCY WITH FEDERAL REGULATIONS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities,
8 and Substance Use Services (Commission) shall amend the rules applicable to outpatient opioid
9 treatment programs (OTPs) in 10A NCAC 27G .3600 through 10A NCAC 27G .3605, to be more
10 consistent with 42 C.F.R. Part 8 governing medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder.
11 In amending these rules, the Commission shall make at least all of the following changes:

- 12 (1) Remove stability of a patient's home environment and social relationships as
13 an eligibility criterion for take-home medication.
- 14 (2) Explicitly prohibit administrative discharge from treatment due to continued
15 substance use, missed doses, and nonparticipation in ancillary services such
16 as counseling.
- 17 (3) Remove structured counseling schedules to better align with federal
18 regulations that promote individualized care that is more patient-centered and
19 flexible.
- 20 (4) Reduce the number of required drug tests to align with the frequency required
21 by federal regulations.
- 22 (5) Remove the requirement for observed urine drug testing.
- 23 (6) Explicitly permit OTPs to administer methadone to patients who are not
24 enrolled with the OTPs as their patients.

25 **SECTION 1.(b)** In determining whether to include any additional changes to the
26 rules applicable to OTPs to achieve greater consistency with 42 C.F.R. Part 8, the Commission
27 shall engage with current and former OTP clients and OTP providers for input on other changes
28 that would serve the goal of improving access to patient-centered care and achieving better
29 alignment with federal regulations. However, the Commission shall not amend the rules to
30 include any input that is inconsistent with State or federal law.

31 **SECTION 1.(c)** The Commission shall publish the proposed text of the amended
32 rules applicable to OTPs by July 1, 2025.

33 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

