



HR0131

LRB102 17212 LAW 22670 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In 2017, the opioid crisis was declared a
3 national public health emergency; and

4 WHEREAS, At the time, the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental
5 Health Services Administration reported that over 2.1 million
6 people in the United States suffered from an opioid use
7 disorder; and

8 WHEREAS, The criminal justice system has felt the impact
9 of this epidemic; and

10 WHEREAS, The U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health
11 Services Administration reported that nearly 15 percent of
12 state prisoners and jail inmates convicted of violent crimes
13 and 40 percent of those convicted of property crimes reported
14 committing their offense to support a drug addiction; and

15 WHEREAS, Approximately 7 percent of state prison and jail
16 inmates were under the influence of opioids at the time of
17 their offense; and

18 WHEREAS, The impact of opioid use on individuals
19 transitioning from jail or prison back to their communities is
20 overwhelmingly negative; and

1 WHEREAS, Outcomes include higher rates of returning to the
2 criminal justice system, harm to families, negative public
3 health effects such as the transmission of infectious
4 diseases, and death; and

5 WHEREAS, The U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health
6 Services Administration reported that within 3 months of
7 release from custody, 75 percent of formerly incarcerated
8 individuals with an opioid use disorder relapse to opioid use,
9 and approximately 40 to 50 percent are arrested for a new crime
10 within the first year; and

11 WHEREAS, Medication-Assisted Treatment is the use of
12 medications in combination with counseling and behavioral
13 therapies to provide a whole-patient approach to the treatment
14 of substance use disorders; and

15 WHEREAS, Buprenorphine, methadone, and naltrexone are used
16 to treat opioid use disorders to short-acting opioids, such as
17 heroin, morphine, and codeine, as well as semi-synthetic
18 opioids like oxycodone and hydrocodone; and

19 WHEREAS, Medication-Assisted Treatment medications
20 relieve the withdrawal symptoms and psychological cravings
21 that cause chemical imbalances in the body; and

1 WHEREAS, Medications used for Medication-Assisted
2 Treatment are evidence-based treatment options and do not
3 merely substitute one drug for another; and

4 WHEREAS, The Rikers Island Jail in New York has provided
5 Medication-Assisted Treatment medications to inmates and has
6 witnessed fewer overdose deaths after inmates are released;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Court action has won Medication-Assisted
9 Treatment rights for inmates in Maine and Massachusetts; and

10 WHEREAS, The Cook County Jail has provided
11 Medication-Assisted Treatment medications to inmates for
12 approximately three years; and

13 WHEREAS, In contrast, the DuPage County Jail has had a
14 policy of not providing Medication-Assisted Treatment
15 medications to inmates; at least two inmates who detoxed at
16 the DuPage County Jail died of overdoses soon after release;
17 the DuPage County Jail was recently sued to allow
18 Medication-Assisted Treatment medications for inmates; and

19 WHEREAS, Medication-Assisted Treatment medications are
20 safe to use for months, years, or even a lifetime; and

1 WHEREAS, The Illinois Association for Behavioral Health
2 has urged the DuPage County Jail and all Illinois county jails
3 to adopt a uniformed, best practice standard of providing
4 Medication-Assisted Treatment medications to individuals under
5 their jurisdiction requiring such services; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we support mandating a statewide standard that requires all
9 Illinois counties to provide Medication-Assisted Treatment
10 medications to individuals under their jurisdiction requiring
11 such services; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
13 delivered to the Governor of Illinois, the Director of the
14 Illinois Department of Corrections, the Director of the
15 Illinois Department of Public Health, the Director of the
16 Illinois Department of Healthcare and Families, the Secretary
17 of the Illinois Department of Human Services, and the Illinois
18 County Sheriffs' Association.