



AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT VOUCHER PROGRAM;
ESTABLISHING PROVIDER AND PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS; ESTABLISHING SERVICES ELIGIBLE
FOR VOUCHER COVERAGE; ESTABLISHING PAYMENT PROVISIONS; PROVIDING AN
APPROPRIATION; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 16-12-122 AND 53-24-
204, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1. Chemical dependency treatment room and board voucher program -- eligibility --
provider and participant requirements.** (1) Subject to available funding, the department shall establish a
room and board voucher program to support chemical dependency treatment for individuals who would
otherwise be unable to access the treatment in a timely manner because of financial barriers.

(2) An approved private or public treatment program that has applied for and been selected to
participate in the voucher program may submit vouchers for reimbursement of chemical dependency treatment
room and board not otherwise covered by insurance or another assistance program. The individual receiving
voucher-eligible services must:

- (a) live in Montana;
- (b) be 14 years of age or older; and
- (c) have an annual family income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

(3) The voucher program may be used to cover the costs of room and board.

(4) An approved treatment program may apply to participate in the voucher program. If approved,
the program remains eligible to participate for the full budget biennium during which approval was received
unless the department terminates the program's participation for cause.

- (5) A participating treatment program:

- (a) may submit vouchers for payment of room and board provided to a qualifying individual as soon as costs are incurred if other payment sources are not immediately available;
- (b) shall report any change in an individual's income or insurance status that makes the individual ineligible for further voucher payments;
- (c) shall collect and report outcome measures as required by the department by rule; and
- (d) shall keep records as required by the department to substantiate the cost of program-provided room and board.

Section 2. Section 16-12-122, MCA, is amended to read:

"16-12-122. Healing and ending addiction through recovery and treatment account. (1) There is a healing and ending addiction through recovery and treatment account in the state special revenue fund. The account consists of money transferred to the account pursuant to 16-12-111.

- (2) Revenue in the account must be used to provide statewide programs for:
 - (a) substance use disorder prevention;
 - (b) mental health promotion; and
 - (c) crisis, treatment, and recovery services for substance use and mental health disorders.
- (3) The programs must be designed to:
 - (a) increase the number of individuals choosing treatment over incarceration;
 - (b) improve access to, utilization of, and engagement and retention in prevention, treatment, and recovery support services;
 - (c) expand the availability of community-based services that reflect best practices or are evidence-based;
 - (d) leverage additional federal funds when available for the healthy Montana kids plan provided for in Title 53, chapter 4, part 11, and the medicaid program provided for in Title 53, chapter 6, for the purposes of this section;
 - (e) provide funding for programs and services that are described in subsections (2)(a) through (2)(c) and provided on an Indian reservation located in this state; or
 - (f) provide funding for grants and services to tribes for use in accordance with this section.

(4) (a) An amount not to exceed \$500,000, including eligible federal matching sources when applicable, must be used to provide funding for grants and services to tribes for tobacco prevention and cessation, substance use disorder prevention, mental health promotion, and substance use disorder and mental health crisis, treatment, and recovery services.

(b) The department of public health and human services shall manage the programs funded by the special revenue account and shall adopt rules to implement the programs.

(5) The legislature shall appropriate money from the state special revenue account provided for in this section for:

(a) the chemical dependency treatment room and board voucher program provided for in [section 1]; and

(b) the programs referred to in this section.

(6) Programs funded under this section must be funded through contracted services with service providers."

Section 3. Section 53-24-204, MCA, is amended to read:

"53-24-204. Powers and duties of department. (1) To carry out this chapter, the department may:

- (a) accept gifts, grants, and donations of money and property from public and private sources;
- (b) enter into contracts; and
- (c) acquire and dispose of property.

(2) The department shall:

(a) approve treatment facilities as provided for in 53-24-208;

(b) prepare a comprehensive long-term state chemical dependency plan every 4 years and update this plan each biennium;

(c) provide for and conduct statewide service system evaluations;

(d) distribute state and federal funds to the counties for approved treatment programs in accordance with the provisions of 53-24-108 and 53-24-206;

(e) plan in conjunction with approved programs and provide for training of program personnel delivering services to persons with a chemical dependency;

(f) establish the voucher program provided for in [section 1], including adopting rules to carry out the provisions of [section 1];

~~(f)~~(g) establish criteria to be used for the development of new programs;

~~(g)~~(h) provide planning for the optimal use of funds by increasing efficiency of services, ensuring existing needs are met, and encouraging rural counties to form multicounty districts or contract with urban programs for services;

~~(h)~~(i) cooperate with the board of pardons and parole in establishing and conducting programs to provide treatment for intoxicated persons and persons with a chemical dependency in or on parole from penal institutions;

~~(i)~~(j) establish standards for chemical dependency educational courses provided by state-approved treatment programs and approve or disapprove the courses;

~~(j)~~(k) hold all state-approved facilities, programs, and providers to uniform standards as established by the department by rule; and

~~(k)~~(l) assist all interested public agencies and private organizations in developing education and prevention programs for chemical dependency."

Section 4. Appropriation. (1) There is appropriated \$600,000 from the healing and ending addiction through recovery and treatment special revenue account provided for in 16-12-122 to the department of public health and human services for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, for payments made through the voucher program provided for in [section 1].

(2) The legislature intends that the appropriation be considered as part of the ongoing base for the next legislative session.

Section 5. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 53, chapter 24, part 2, and the provisions of Title 53, chapter 24, part 2, apply to [section 1].

Section 6. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.

Section 7. Termination. [This act] terminates June 30, 2027.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 311, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2023.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2023.

HOUSE BILL NO. 311

INTRODUCED BY M. YAKAWICH, L. SMITH

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