

SENATE BILL 2093

By Yarbro

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 8; Title 16; Title 33; Title 40; Title 56; Title 63; Title 68 and Title 71, relative to medication assisted treatment.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) The department of commerce and insurance and the department of health shall study the need for medication assisted treatment in this state. The study must include:

(1) The extent to which the opioid epidemic could be addressed through enhanced efforts to increase treatment and prevention in this state, including increased access to medication assisted treatment;

(2) The need in this state for a program that would help healthcare practitioners use medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies to provide a comprehensive approach to the treatment of substance use disorders;

(3) An examination of the research regarding when treating substance use disorders, a combination of medication and behavioral therapies is most successful and the cost savings associated with such a combination in the treatment of substance abuse; and

(4) The financial and administrative barriers for patients when seeking medication assisted treatment.

(b) The departments shall report the findings to the health and commerce committees of the senate and the health and insurance and banking committees of the

house of representatives. The departments shall report the findings no later than January 15, 2019. In the report, the departments shall include recommendations for changes to existing law.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.