

HB24-1126

Let's Get People the Help they need Sooner

Current Problem

Today we are facing an unprecedented number of people suffering from addiction issues in our state. We have proposed a number of measures to help these people, but often that help comes after someone is deep into the process of prosecution. This can take weeks if not months before we can offer any substantial help for our citizens, even though we have a welcoming community waiting to help. If we can "bump up" the time where help can be offered to defendant in the process suffering from addiction, we can substantially improve if not save lives in Colorado.

Current Methods / System

Currently during the process of waiting for your case to be heard in court the court can assign you to pre-trial conditions of bond. One of those conditions is monitored sobriety through regular urinary analysis testing along with directing defendants to seek help. Today, the court can order you to comply with these requirements as a condition of your freedom. However, ordering an evaluation for Medical Addiction Treatment is not an enumerated path judges can easily direct defendants. Medical Addiction Treatment is evolving every day and per American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) and National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) proven to be an integral part of initial and ongoing treatment. We need to get people the help they need as soon as possible. Early access to treatment equates to better outcomes.

What this bill does

HB24-1126 as amended, attempts to make it easier OR simply another path a defendant can be directed in place of current pre-trial restrictions. The goal is to make it appealing for the defendant to seek Medical Addiction Treatment versus going through the current court ordered system of pre-trial. If the defendant fails to meet the treatment requirements, they are not punished but subject to the path that already exists under statute.

What you will hear today

Today you will hear from medical professionals that administer this treatment today and how it has proven to be effective in helping with our addiction crisis in this state.

VOTE Yes today to help us get the treatment sooner to those who can benefit from the latest techniques for conquering addiction in Colorado