

Subject Substance use disorder treatment; religious objections

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Overview

This bill allows for religious objections to placements in substance use disorder (SUD) treatment programs and facilities that include a religious element or religious character, and requires the commissioner of human services to submit a report to the legislature evaluating the prevalence of religion in SUD treatment programs and providing information on secular treatment options.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p>Release plans; substance abuse.</p> <p>Amends § 241.415. Updates terminology. Specifies that an offender who in good faith objects to any religious element of an SUD treatment plan is not required to participate in that treatment program as part of a prison release plan. Requires the commissioner to document the offender's good faith objection and gives the commissioner the authority to require the offender to participate in an equivalent alternative treatment program to which the offender has no religious objection. Allows the offender to decline to participate in any religious element of a treatment program to which the offender objects. Prohibits the commissioner from using an offender's good faith refusal to participate in a treatment program or element of a treatment program to adversely impact the offender's term of incarceration or supervised release conditions.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Substance use disorder treatment; religious elements.</p> <p>Create § 241.417. Prohibits any placing authority from compelling an individual to participate in any religious element of an SUD treatment program if the individual objects in good faith. Specifies requirements if an individual objects to the religious character or any religious element of an SUD treatment program. Defines the term "directly or indirectly compel" for purposes of this section.</p> |

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3	<p>Substance use disorder treatment program religious objections.</p> <p>Amends § 244.0513, by adding subd. 5a. Prohibits an offender who in good faith objects to any religious element of an SUD treatment program from being required to participate in that treatment program as a condition of release. Requires the commissioner to document the offender's good faith objection and gives the commissioner the authority to require the offender to participate in an equivalent alternative treatment program to which the offender has no religious objection. Allows the offender to decline to participate in any religious element of a treatment program to which the offender objects. Prohibits the commissioner from using an offender's good faith refusal to participate in a treatment program or element of a treatment program to adversely impact the offender's term of incarceration or supervised release conditions.</p>
4	<p>Patient rights.</p> <p>Amends § 245F.10, subd. 1. Makes a conforming cross-reference change.</p>
5	<p>Staff continuing education workshops.</p> <p>Amends § 245G.13, by adding subd. 2a. Requires the commissioner to develop and make available continuing education workshops for licensee program staff members who are not licensed by a health-related licensing board, including recovery peers. Lists the information the workshops must include.</p>
6	<p>Explanation.</p> <p>Amends § 245G. 15, subd. 1. Makes a conforming cross-reference change.</p>
7	<p>Standard diagnostic assessment; required elements.</p> <p>Amends § 245I.10, subd. 6. Expands the list of information the assessor must document about a client when completing a standard diagnostic assessment to include the client's religious preference, if any.</p>
8	<p>Special visitation; religion.</p> <p>Amends § 253B.03, subd. 4. Specifies that a patient has the right to refrain from any religious or spiritual exercise or activity in the chapter of statutes governing civil commitment. Gives a patient who in good faith objects to the religious character of a treatment facility or program or state-operated treatment program the right to participate in an equivalent alternative treatment program to which the patient has no religious objection. Allows a patient to decline to participate in any religious element of a treatment program to which the patient objects. Prohibits the patient's good faith refusal to participate in a treatment program or element of a treatment program for religious reasons to adversely impact the duration of the patient's civil commitment or requirements for discharge.</p>

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9	<p>Notification.</p> <p>Amends § 253B.03, subd. 10. Expands the notification of rights given to civilly committed patients to include notification of the right to participate in an equivalent alternative treatment program or to decline to participate in any element of a treatment program if the patient objects in good faith to the religious character of a treatment facility or element of a treatment program.</p>
10	<p>Voluntary admission and treatment.</p> <p>Amends § 253B.04, subd. 1. Clarifies that a person is not compelled to participate in a course of SUD treatment to which they object in good faith based on the religious character of the treatment or prevented from transferring to an equivalent alternative course of treatment if clinically appropriate and available within a reasonable time.</p>
11	<p>Substance use disorder treatment; religious objections.</p> <p>Creates § 254B.035.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Equivalent alternative substance use disorder treatment programs. Requires the commissioner to license a broad range of programs that are eligible vendors of services to provide SUD treatment, including programs that exclusively use secular treatment modalities.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Technical assistance. Requires the commissioner to provide technical assistance to all licensed SUD treatment providers to ensure compliance with section 241.417.</p>
12	<p>Alternatives to incarceration.</p> <p>Amends § 609.14, subd. 2a. Updates terminology. Prohibits a defendant who in good faith objects to any religious element of an SUD treatment program from being required to participate in that treatment program as an alternative to incarceration. Requires the court to document the defendant's good faith objection and gives the court the authority to require the defendant to participate in an equivalent alternative treatment program to which the defendant has no religious objection. Allows the defendant to decline to participate in any religious element of a treatment program to which the defendant objects. Prohibits the commissioner from using an offender's good faith refusal to participate in a treatment program or element of a treatment program to adversely impact the offender's term of incarceration or supervised release conditions.</p>
13	<p>Direction to commissioner; religion in substance use disorder treatment report.</p> <p>By January 15, 2026, requires the commissioner of human services to submit a report to the legislature evaluating the prevalence of religion in SUD treatment programs</p>

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	and providing information on secular treatment options. Lists the information the report must include.
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