



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

**Raised Bill No. 6838**

LCO No. 3665



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER  
TREATMENT FACILITIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-684 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) A person [who is intoxicated at the time of] for whom an  
4 application for commitment is made pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
5 section and who (1) is dangerous to himself or herself or dangerous to  
6 others unless committed, which may be evidenced by such person  
7 having repeatedly overdosed on drugs or been administered an opioid  
8 antagonist on multiple occasions, (2) needs medical treatment for  
9 detoxification for potentially life-threatening symptoms of withdrawal  
10 from alcohol or drugs, which may be evidenced by such person having  
11 repeatedly overdosed on drugs or been administered an opioid  
12 antagonist on multiple occasions, or (3) is incapacitated by alcohol, may  
13 be committed for emergency treatment to a treatment facility operated  
14 by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services or a private  
15 treatment facility approved by the department to provide emergency

16 treatment. [The requirement that a person be intoxicated at the time of  
17 application may be waived if a licensed physician determines that the  
18 person is in immediate need of medical treatment for detoxification for  
19 potentially life-threatening withdrawal symptoms.] A refusal to  
20 undergo treatment shall not constitute evidence of lack of judgment as  
21 to the need for treatment.

22 (b) A physician, spouse, guardian or relative of the person to be  
23 committed, or any other responsible person, including, but not limited  
24 to, any physician who provides emergency medical services to such  
25 person in connection with a drug overdose, may make a written  
26 application for commitment under this section, directed to the  
27 administrator of a treatment facility operated by the department or  
28 approved by the department to provide emergency treatment. The  
29 application shall state facts to support the need for emergency treatment  
30 and be accompanied by a physician's certificate stating that [he] the  
31 physician has examined the person sought to be committed within two  
32 days before the certificate's date and facts supporting the need for  
33 emergency treatment.

34 (c) Upon tentative approval of the application by the administrator of  
35 the treatment facility, the person shall be transferred to the facility. The  
36 medical officer of the treatment facility shall immediately examine the  
37 person sought to be committed and advise the administrator of the  
38 treatment facility whether the application sustains the grounds to  
39 commit the person for emergency treatment. The administrator shall  
40 either accept the application or refuse the application if the application  
41 fails to sustain the grounds for commitment. If the administrator accepts  
42 the application, the person shall be retained at the facility to which [he]  
43 the person was admitted, or transferred to another appropriate  
44 treatment facility, until discharged under subsection (d) of this section.

45 (d) When, on the advice of the medical officer, the administrator  
46 determines that the grounds for commitment for emergency treatment  
47 no longer exist, the administrator shall discharge a person committed

48 under this section. No person committed under this section may be  
49 detained in any treatment facility for more than five days. If an  
50 application for involuntary commitment under section 17a-685 has been  
51 filed within the five-day period and the administrator of the treatment  
52 facility, on the advice of the medical officer of the facility, finds that  
53 grounds for commitment exist under the provisions of said section, [he]  
54 the administrator may detain the person until the application has been  
55 heard and determined, but no longer than seven business days after  
56 filing the application.

57 (e) A copy of the written application for commitment and a written  
58 explanation of the person's right to counsel, shall be given by the  
59 administrator of the treatment facility to the person within twenty-four  
60 hours after commitment under this section. The administrator shall  
61 provide a reasonable opportunity for the person to consult counsel.

62 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) No rehabilitation facility that  
63 treats persons with a substance use disorder shall refuse a person's  
64 admission into the facility solely because the person is intoxicated or  
65 tests positive for the use of an illegal substance or opioid antagonist, as  
66 defined in section 17a-714a of the general statutes, at the time such  
67 person applies for or otherwise seeks admission to the facility.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17a-684
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To allow persons with a substance use disorder access to treatment and rehabilitation facilities when they are not intoxicated.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*