**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 44‑53‑720, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF METHADONE, SO AS TO AUTHORIZE PHARMACISTS AND NURSES TO ADMINISTER OR DISPENSE METHADONE OR OTHER OPIOID AGONIST TREATMENT MEDICATIONS IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 44‑53‑720 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 44‑53‑720. (A) Methadone and its salts are restricted to:

(1) use in treatment, maintenance, or detoxification programs as approved by the Department of Health and Environmental Control~~.~~;

(2) dispensing by a hospital for analgesia, pertussis, and detoxification treatment as approved by the Department of Health and Environmental Control~~.~~; and

(3) dispensing by a retail pharmacy for analgesia as provided for by R. 61‑4, Section ~~507.5~~ 1012.

(B) Methadone or any other opioid agonist treatment medication that is approved by the Food and Drug Administration pursuant to 21 U.S.C. Section 355 for use in the treatment of opioid use disorder must be administered or dispensed only by a practitioner licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners and registered under state and federal law to administer or dispense opioid drugs, or by an agent of such a practitioner, supervised by or under the order of the licensed practitioner. The agent must be a pharmacist, registered nurse, or licensed practical nurse authorized by federal and state law to administer or dispense opioid drugs and employed by the program, hospital, or pharmacy dispensing the treatment medication.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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