

STATE OF NEW YORK

9001

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

August 13, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. STECK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a medetomidine, benzodiazepine, nitazenes, and/or other harmful contaminants test strip program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section
2 19.47 to read as follows:

3 § 19.47 Medetomidine, benzodiazepine, nitazenes, and/or other harmful
4 contaminants test strip program.

5 1. The commissioner shall establish a program whereby individuals may
6 receive, free of charge, drug test strips to detect the presence of
7 contaminants such as medetomidine, benzodiazepine, nitazenes, and/or
8 other harmful contaminants. The following facilities may apply to
9 distribute such test strips for medetomidine, benzodiazepine, nitazenes,
10 and/or other harmful contaminants:

11 (a) hospital emergency rooms;

12 (b) addiction treatment facilities;

13 (c) facilities for substance use disorder programs;

14 (d) homeless shelters;

15 (e) urgent care centers;

16 (f) mobile medication units;

17 (g) treatment facilities as defined in paragraph five of subdivision
18 (a) of section 22.09 of this title; and

19 (h) any other setting, as determined by the office, which is routinely
20 accessed by individuals with a substance use disorder.

21 2. Individuals shall not be targeted by law enforcement when they are
22 obtaining test strips for medetomidine, benzodiazepine, nitazenes,
23 and/or other harmful contaminants at the facilities pursuant to subdivi-
24 sion one of this section.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 3. The commissioner, in cooperation with the commissioner of the
2 department of health, shall develop and conduct a public awareness and
3 educational campaign on the dangers of medetomidine, benzodiazepine,
4 nitazenes, and/or other harmful contaminants. Such campaign shall
5 detail where medetomidine, benzodiazepine, nitazenes, and/or other harm-
6 ful contaminants may be found and the availability of the free test
7 strips for medetomidine, benzodiazepine, nitazenes, and/or other harmful
8 contaminants at the facilities referenced in subdivision one of this
9 section.

10 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
11 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-
12 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-
13 tation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and
14 completed on or before such effective date.