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Rep. Moses' Bill Providing Prerelease Health Coverage for Incarcerated Individuals Signed into Law

Madison... Representative Clint Moses (R-Menomonie) had his bill, Assembly Bill 604, signed into law today. This bill establishes a pathway to expand access to essential health services for incarcerated individuals prior to their release.

Assembly Bill 604 directs the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to seek federal approval for a waiver that would allow eligible individuals to receive Medical Assistance (Medicaid) coverage for critical substance abuse services up to 90 days before release from incarceration.

“This is a practical, bipartisan step forward to improve outcomes for individuals reentering our communities,” said Rep. Moses. “By ensuring access to care before release, we can better support recovery, reduce recidivism, and strengthen public safety across Wisconsin.”

Under the new law, the Department of Health Services must apply for a federal waiver to provide prerelease coverage for:

- Case management services to support care coordination and reentry planning
- Medication-assisted treatment for all substance use disorders
- A 30-day supply of prescription medications upon release

The legislation reflects a focus on reducing long-term costs by addressing health needs before release. By providing limited, targeted care during this transition period, the state can help avoid more expensive emergency services, reduce recidivism, and ease financial strain on Wisconsin’s healthcare and corrections systems.

“I’m proud to have worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this legislation,” Moses added. “This is about delivering smart policy that helps people get back on their feet while making our communities safer.”

The Department of Health Services is required to submit the federal waiver request no later than January 1, 2027.

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The 92nd Assembly District includes the cities of Chippewa Falls and Menomonie; villages of Elk Mound and Lake Hallie; townships of Hallie, Lafayette, Wheaton, Elk Mound, Menomonie, and Red Cedar, and the parts of the city of Eau Claire that reside in Chippewa County.