

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

County Government with a Unified Voice

RICHARD D. GARDNER
NJAC President
Warren County Freeholder

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Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee

DATE: January 30, 2012

RE: **ASSEMBLY, NO. 745** (*Barnes D-18*)

The New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) respectfully requests that the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee amend A-745 to authorize county correctional facilities to administer generic prescription drugs at the time of incarceration instead of waiting 30 days as is the case under the bill; and, to provide these facilities with the continued discretion to administer methadone as a drug detoxifier as is the case under current law. More specifically:

Section 2. a. should be amended as follows:

“The chief executive officer ... shall ensure that each incarcerated person under the institution’s custody, continues to receive any medications, which may include the use of appropriate therapeutic treatments and medications or their generic substitution in accordance with State law and regulations as established by the Commissioner or Corrections, prescribed prior to the person’s incarceration for the treatment of chronic conditions. “

The underlined language would authorize county correctional facilities to administer generic prescription drugs at the time of incarceration instead of waiting 30 days as is required under the bill. Although difficult to quantify at this point, the change will serve as an effective cost saving measure.

Section 2. c. should be amended as follows:

“The chief executive officer Necessary medications shall include, but shall not be limited to, those medications which, if

missed, may cause serious illness, death or other harmful effects,
but may not include methadone as a drug addiction detoxifier.”

The underlined language would provide county correctional facilities with the continued discretion to administer methadone as a drug detoxifier as is the case under current law. Most county correctional facilities do not recognize prescriptions for methadone in this capacity unless the prisoner is an expectant mother or it is otherwise medically necessary.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to working with the sponsors and Committee on this important piece of legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact us at (609) 394-3467 with any questions or concerns.