

The Vermont Medical Society (VMS) has a neutral position on H.162, An act relating to removal of buprenorphine from the misdemeanor crime of possession of a narcotic. VMS's executive committee discussed the bill at their last meeting. In general, there was support for decriminalization as the sense is that patients use street buprenorphine to self-medicate and initiate treatment rather than as a drug of abuse. However, since our leadership generally thought that other methods of increasing access to treatment were preferable (like prescription treatment on demand) and that it is important to connect patients to a full range of treatment and recovery services, VMS continues to monitor the bill at this time.

Thank you,
Jill

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