



**Alberta Darling**  
Wisconsin State Senator · District 8

**Testimony before the Senate Committee on Health**  
Senate Bill 327: Medication-Assisted Treatment  
1/12/22

Thank you Chairman Testin and committee members for hearing testimony on Senate Bill 327.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, in 2019 there were approximately 21,000 convictions for drunken driving, 140 killed in alcohol-related crashes, and 2,918 injured in alcohol-related crashes.

Driving drunk has lifelong consequences. In recent years, we as policymakers have taken a multi-faceted approach to help combat our state's drunken driving problem. We have increased penalties for repeat offenders while also providing more funding to increase access to treatment through the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Program.

Under current law, courts must order a person convicted of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated to submit to an assessment of the person's use of alcohol or controlled substances. The assessment must develop a driver safety plan for the person, which may include substance abuse treatment. The Department of Health Services establishes standards for assessment procedures and driver safety plans by administrative rule.

Current DHS rules provide that, if an assessment makes a finding of dependency, suspected dependency, or dependency in remission for a person, the driver safety plan for that person must recommend substance abuse treatment. Senate Bill 327 provides that, if substance abuse treatment is recommended for a person, the treatment must include an evaluation for the appropriateness of medication-assisted treatment for the person.

How individuals respond to certain treatments vary. By connecting individuals with the treatment that best suits them, we may be able to reduce the chance of repeat offenders, incarceration costs, and alcohol-related driving fatalities.

I want to thank Representative Shannon Zimmerman for leading this effort in the Assembly and the Assembly Committee on Substance Abuse and Prevention passing this out of committee unanimously 8 to 0. Thank you Chairman Testin and committee members for taking the time to hear Senate Bill 327. I hope to count on your support for the important bill.



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# SHANNON ZIMMERMAN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 30<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**Senate Bill 327**  
**Senate Committee on Health**  
**January 12, 2022**

Thank you Chairman Testin and committee members for hearing testimony on Senate Bill 327 today. This bill would require those convicted of OWI in Wisconsin to undergo an assessment for the possible use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

Assessment costs range from \$165 to \$380, with an average of \$263. To be clear, this proposal will have no impact on these costs.

According to the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), medication-assisted treatment is “the use of medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a “whole-patient” approach to the treatment of substance use disorders”. Furthermore, SAMHSA points out that the medications are approved by the FDA and MAT programs are clinically driven and tailored to each individual patient.

The effectiveness of MAT programs when appropriately applied has been proven over time. While the goal of this treatment is full recovery, it has been shown to:

- Improve patient survival
- Increase retention in treatment
- Decrease illicit opiate use and other criminal activity among individuals with substance use disorder
- Increase patient’s ability to gain and maintain employment
- Improve birth outcomes among women who have substance use disorders and are pregnant

Many of you may be familiar with this type of treatment for individuals addicted to opioids, but it can also be used to assist those with alcohol use disorder as well. Medication-assisted treatment is just another tool in the toolbox as we mold policies to assist those needing treatment.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony and I hope I can count on your support of this measure as it moves forward.

**2020 Driver Assessment Fees, by Jurisdiction**

<b>County</b>	<b>Assessment Charge</b>		
ADAMS	\$245		
ASHLAND	200		
BARRON	250		
BAYFIELD	200	County average	\$263.74
BROWN	275	County median	\$260.00
BUFFALO	270		
BURNETT	260		
CALUMET	260		
CHIPPEWA	250		
CLARK	300		
COLUMBIA	275		
CRAWFORD	270		
DANE	300		
DODGE	250		
DOOR	225		
DOUGLAS	275		
DUNN	230		
EAU CLAIRE	265		
FLORENCE	225		
FOND DU LAC	260		
FOREST	250		
GRANT	350		
GREEN	250		
GREEN LAKE	275		
IOWA	350		
IRON	200		
JACKSON	275		
JEFFERSON	295		
JUNEAU	275		
KENOSHA	280		
KEWAUNEE	275		
LA CROSSE	350		
LAFAYETTE	300		
LANGLADE	210		
LINCOLN	210		
MANITOWOC	250		
MARATHON	165		
MARINETTE	260		
MARQUETTE	250		
MENOMINEE	220		
MILWAUKEE	295		
MONROE	320		
OCONTO	240		
ONEIDA	250		

OUTAGAMIE	250
OZAUKEE	255
PEPIN	225
PIERCE	329
POLK	300
PORTAGE	250
PRICE	250
RACINE	250
RICHLAND	350
ROCK	300
RUSK	250
SAUK	275
SAWYER	200
SHAWANO	230
SHEBOYGAN	250
ST. CROIX	380
TAYLOR	300
TREMPEALEAU	270
VERNON	275
VILAS	250
WALWORTH	300
WASHBURN	250
WASHINGTON	265
WAUKESHA	280
WAUPACA	250
WAUSHARA	200
WINNEBAGO	250
WOOD	275

<b>Tribe</b>	<b>Assessment Charge</b>
LA COURTE OREILLES	\$150
BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR	
CHIPPEWA	175
RED CLIFF BAND	175
LAC DU FLAMBEAU	250