



Senate Budget & Tax Committee
February 21, 2024

Senate Bill 801 – Correctional Services – Medication–Assisted Treatment

Support with Amendments

NCADD-Maryland supports amending Senate Bill 801 to remove the brackets in lines 26 and 29 on page 3. Those brackets repeal the mandate, passed in 2019, that local detention centers provide medication assisted treatment for people with opioid use disorders. As we understand this was a drafting error, we support the sponsor’s amendment to remove those brackets.

NCADD-Maryland also has no objection to the amendment that clarifies partial opioid agonists can be transmucosal or long-acting. While we believe the language in the existing law does not prohibit any particular formulation, we can support the clarification.

As for the section that provides for funding to come from the Opioid Restitution Fund, we are generally supportive of using these funds to help local detention centers get these services provided. We support the amendments offered by the Maryland Association of Counties that include transparency in the reporting by detention centers on how they are spending money for these services.

In addition, we ask for the following amendment that would require local detention centers to begin examining their health care contracts for eventual inclusion of these services as a regular part of their provision of health care services to people in their custody. Substance use disorder treatment is not a special or extra service that is optional. Treatment is health care and the State and local governments should work toward including these services and their costs into their health care contracts.

Amendment No. 1, on page 11, line 1, insert:

SECTION 2, AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That facilities shall certify to the Department that they are in health care contracts that include the provision of medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorders and any related counseling services by July 1, 2027. The Department of Health shall provide technical assistance to ensure facilities have the required contracts.

With these amendments, we ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 801.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.