



MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

SB 801. Correctional Services – Medication-Assisted Treatment

Budget and Tax Committee; Judicial Proceedings Committee February 21, 2024

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

MDDCSAM supports what we understand are the sponsor's amendment: removing the brackets in lines 26 and 29 on page 3 so that the mandate for medication for opioid use disorder is not repealed.

We are not opposed to the clarification that partial opioid agonists can include either transmucosal or long-acting formulations, although the original language, 'partial opioid agonist' did not exclude any formulations.

We are also asking for the following amendment proposed by the Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) 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. As NCADD-Maryland has pointed out, substance use disorder treatment is not a special or extra service that is optional. 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 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.

We also support transparency through reporting by detention centers on funds spent for these services. We are generally supportive of the amendments to this effect that we understand are being proposed by the Maryland Association of Counties.

With these amendments, we ask for a favorable report.

Respectfully,

Joseph A. Adams, MD, FASAM, board certified in internal medicine and addiction medicine.