

# HOUSE BILL 295

P1  
HB 317/23 – HGO

4lr0836

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By: **Delegates J. Long, Allen, Fennell, Harris, Kaufman, T. Morgan, Pruski, Simmons, Taveras, Tomlinson, Turner, Woods, Wu, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Overdose Awareness Day**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain day as Overdose  
4 Awareness Day.

5 BY renumbering

6 Article – General Provisions

7 Section 7–416 through 7–420

8 to be Section 7–417 through 7–421, respectively

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

11 BY adding to

12 Article – General Provisions

13 Section 7–416

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

16 Preamble

17 WHEREAS, Drug addiction is a chronic disease, characterized by compulsive or  
18 difficult-to-control drug use despite harmful consequences; and

19 WHEREAS, Drug addiction is seen by both the Centers for Disease Control and  
20 Prevention and the World Health Organization as a fast-growing epidemic that can all too  
21 easily lead to overdose and death; and

22 WHEREAS, For every drug overdose that results in death, there are many more  
23 nonfatal overdoses, each taking an emotional and economic toll on the individual, the  
24 individual's family, and the community at large; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Drug addiction can fuel feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment,  
2 depression, and hopelessness, causing individuals to resist seeking treatment and support;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on August 31 each year  
5 that aims to raise awareness of drug overdoses, reduce the stigma of a drug-related death,  
6 and acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have died or  
7 had a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose; and

8 WHEREAS, Recognizing Overdose Awareness Day in Maryland sends a strong  
9 message to former or current substance users, namely, that they are valued, and that  
10 overdose death is preventable; now, therefore,

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
12 That Section(s) 7-416 through 7-420 of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code  
13 of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-417 through 7-421, respectively.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
15 as follows:

16 **Article – General Provisions**

17 **7-416.**

18 **THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM AUGUST 31 AS OVERDOSE**  
19 **AWARENESS DAY.**

20 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
21 1, 2024.