

# HOUSE BILL 1432

J2, J1

EMERGENCY BILL

7lr0136

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By: **Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee (By Request –  
Departmental – Health and Mental Hygiene)**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2017

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Care Providers – Prescription Opioids – Limits on Prescribing**  
3 **(The Prescriber Limits Act of 2017)**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to take  
5 certain action relating to a controlled dangerous substances registration under  
6 certain circumstances; prohibiting health care providers from prescribing to a  
7 patient more than a certain number of days' supply of certain opioid controlled  
8 dangerous substances under certain circumstances; providing that a violation of a  
9 certain provision of this Act is grounds for disciplinary action by a certain health  
10 occupations board; requiring certain health occupations boards to adopt certain  
11 regulations; authorizing certain health occupations boards to take certain  
12 disciplinary actions against certain individuals for a violation of certain provisions  
13 of this Act; defining a certain term; making this Act an emergency measure; and  
14 generally relating to the prescribing of opioid controlled dangerous substances.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Criminal Law  
17 Section 5–307(a)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

20 BY adding to  
21 Article – Health Occupations  
22 Section 1–223, 4–315(a)(35), 8–316(a)(36), and 14–404(a)(43)  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

25 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
26 Article – Health Occupations

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 4–315(a)(33) and (34), 8–316(a)(34)(ii) and (35), 14–404(a)(41)(ii) and (42),  
2 and 16–311(a)(8)  
3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
4 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

5 Preamble

6 WHEREAS, The number of overdose deaths in the United States involving opioids  
7 rose from 28,647 in 2014 to 33,091 in 2015; and

8 WHEREAS, The number of overdose deaths in the United States involving heroin  
9 rose from 10,574 in 2014 to 12,990 in 2015; and

10 WHEREAS, The rise in overdose deaths is attributable to the surge of opioid  
11 dependence that has emerged in Maryland over the past two decades, stemming from a  
12 dramatic increase in the number of opioid medications prescribed by the medical  
13 community and the influx of cheap, potent heroin and fentanyl; and

14 WHEREAS, The epidemic of opioid dependence represents an urgent and growing  
15 public health threat, cutting across all demographics and geographical areas in Maryland,  
16 and also represents a serious threat to the security and economic well-being of the State;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The State is undertaking numerous efforts to combat the opioid  
19 epidemic, and the Medicaid program received expenditure authority under § 1115 of the  
20 federal Social Security Act to expand the State's current substance use treatment efforts to  
21 allow the State to claim matching federal funds for residential substance use disorder  
22 treatment in nonpublic Institutions for Mental Diseases; and

23 WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly that the State Board of Dental  
24 Examiners, State Board of Nursing, State Board of Physicians, and State Board of Podiatric  
25 Medical Examiners shall work to educate practitioners to ensure that the residents of  
26 Maryland are aware of the risks associated with the use of opioid drugs, including the risks  
27 of dependence, addiction, and overdose, and the dangers of taking an opioid drug with  
28 alcohol, benzodiazepines, and other depressants; now, therefore,

29 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
30 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

31 **Article – Criminal Law**

32 5–307.

33 (a) Subject to the notice and hearing provisions of § 5–308 of this subtitle, the  
34 Department may deny a registration to any applicant, suspend or revoke a registration, or  
35 refuse to renew a registration if the Department finds that the applicant or registrant:

1 (1) has materially falsified an application filed in accordance with or  
2 required by this title;

3 (2) has been convicted of a crime under federal law or the law of any state  
4 relating to a controlled dangerous substance;

5 (3) has had federal registration suspended or revoked and may no longer  
6 manufacture, distribute, or dispense a controlled dangerous substance; [or]

7 (4) has violated this title; OR

8 (5) HAS FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE OPIOID PRESCRIBING  
9 LIMITATION ESTABLISHED UNDER § 1-223 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS  
10 ARTICLE.

11 **Article – Health Occupations**

12 **1-223.**

13 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE” HAS THE  
14 MEANING STATED IN § 5-101 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE.

15 (B) ON THE INITIAL CONSULTATION OR TREATMENT FOR PAIN, A HEALTH  
16 CARE PROVIDER MAY NOT PRESCRIBE TO A PATIENT MORE THAN A 7-DAY SUPPLY  
17 OF AN OPIOID THAT IS A SCHEDULE II OR SCHEDULE III CONTROLLED DANGEROUS  
18 SUBSTANCE UNLESS THE OPIOID IS PRESCRIBED TO TREAT:

19 (1) A SUBSTANCE-RELATED DISORDER;

20 (2) PAIN ASSOCIATED WITH A CANCER DIAGNOSIS; OR

21 (3) PAIN EXPERIENCED WHILE THE PATIENT IS RECEIVING  
22 END-OF-LIFE, HOSPICE, OR PALLIATIVE CARE FOR AN INCURABLE ILLNESS.

23 (C) A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION IS GROUNDS FOR  
24 DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD THAT REGULATES THE  
25 HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WHO COMMITS THE VIOLATION.

26 (D) THE FOLLOWING HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARDS THAT REGULATE  
27 HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WHO HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE CONTROLLED  
28 DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES THAT ARE OPIOIDS SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS AS  
29 NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION:

30 (1) THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICIANS;

- 1           **(2) THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING;**  
2           **(3) THE STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS; AND**  
3           **(4) THE STATE BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS.**

4 4–315.

5           (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 4–318 of this subtitle, the Board may  
6 deny a general license to practice dentistry, a limited license to practice dentistry, or a  
7 teacher’s license to practice dentistry to any applicant, reprimand any licensed dentist,  
8 place any licensed dentist on probation, or suspend or revoke the license of any licensed  
9 dentist, if the applicant or licensee:

10           (33) Fails to comply with any Board order; [or]

11           (34) Willfully and without legal justification, fails to cooperate with a lawful  
12 investigation conducted by the Board; **OR**

13           **(35) FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE OPIOID PRESCRIBING LIMITATION**  
14 **ESTABLISHED UNDER § 1–223 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

15 8–316.

16           (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 8–317 of this subtitle, the Board may  
17 deny a license or grant a license, including a license subject to a reprimand, probation, or  
18 suspension, to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or  
19 suspend or revoke the license of a licensee if the applicant or licensee:

20           (34) When acting in a supervisory position, directs another nurse to delegate  
21 a nursing task to an individual when that nurse reasonably believes:

22           (ii) The patient’s condition does not allow delegation of the nursing  
23 task; [or]

24           (35) Has misappropriated the property of a patient or a facility; **OR**

25           **(36) FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE OPIOID PRESCRIBING LIMITATION**  
26 **ESTABLISHED UNDER § 1–223 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

27 14–404.

28           (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 14–405 of this subtitle, a disciplinary  
29 panel, on the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum of the disciplinary panel, may

1 reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke a license if  
2 the licensee:

3 (41) Performs a cosmetic surgical procedure in an office or a facility that is  
4 not:

5 (ii) Certified to participate in the Medicare program, as enacted by  
6 Title XVIII of the Social Security Act; [or]

7 (42) Fails to submit to a criminal history records check under § 14–308.1 of  
8 this title; **OR**

9 (43) **FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE OPIOID PRESCRIBING LIMITATION**  
10 **ESTABLISHED UNDER § 1–223 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

11 16–311.

12 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 16–313 of this subtitle, the Board, on the  
13 affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny a license or a limited  
14 license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee or holder of a limited license, impose an  
15 administrative monetary penalty not exceeding \$50,000 on any licensee or holder of a  
16 limited license, place any licensee or holder of a limited license on probation, or suspend or  
17 revoke a license or a limited license if the applicant, licensee, or holder:

18 (8) Prescribes or distributes a controlled dangerous substance to any other  
19 person in violation of the law, **INCLUDING IN VIOLATION OF THE OPIOID PRESCRIBING**  
20 **LIMITATION ESTABLISHED UNDER § 1–223 OF THIS ARTICLE;**

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
22 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has  
23 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members elected to  
24 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is  
25 enacted.