

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 44  
Judiciary

(Delegate Lopez)

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Correctional Services – Pregnant Incarcerated Individuals – Substance Use  
Disorder Assessment and Treatment

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This bill requires correctional units to screen pregnant incarcerated individuals for substance use disorder (SUD) at intake using a validated screening tool, regardless of the jurisdiction of confinement or the length of time that the individual is expected to be at the correctional unit. The bill also establishes requirements for correctional units relating to the assessment, treatment, and release of pregnant incarcerated individuals with an SUD.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The overall increase in State expenditures cannot be reliably estimated. However, Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) expenditures increase by at least \$339,400 beginning in FY 2024, and Medicaid expenditures (40% general funds, 60% federal funds) increase by at least \$253,280 beginning in FY 2024 to place additional pregnant individuals in residential substance use programs. Federal fund revenues increase accordingly. General fund expenditures increase minimally for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to provide services to pregnant incarcerated individuals. To the extent that existing State or federal funds can be used to support these costs, the need for additional general funds decreases. Any expenditures for DPSCS related to the Baltimore Pretrial Complex and for the State to reimburse local correctional facilities for their costs are assumed to be attributed to Chapter 532 of 2019, as discussed below. **This bill increases the cost of an entitlement program beginning in FY 2024.**

**Local Effect:** None. Any expenditures for local correctional facilities are assumed to be attributable to Chapter 532 and reimbursed by the State pursuant to Chapter 532, as discussed below.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** A pregnant incarcerated individual who scores positive on the SUD screening must be referred immediately to a behavioral health care provider and a reproductive health care provider for (1) full assessment; (2) counseling on all available and recommended treatment options; and (3) if clinically appropriate, the initiation or continuation of medication.

If a pregnant incarcerated individual was receiving medication treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) prior to incarceration and desires to continue that treatment while inside the correctional unit, the correctional unit must ensure that the individual continues to receive the same medication without a break in care. A pregnant incarcerated individual with OUD who was not on medication treatment before incarceration must be started on appropriate medication treatment while in custody if the treatment is recommended and the individual consents to the treatment. A pregnant incarcerated individual for whom medication treatment is indicated, but who declines the treatment, or who would like to terminate the use of medication while incarcerated, must be (1) allowed to decline or terminate medication treatment in a timely manner and (2) counseled on the risks associated with the action.

Before releasing a pregnant incarcerated individual, a correctional unit must:

- contact and work with appropriate government agencies and other entities to arrange health insurance coverage for the individual, with coverage to become effective not later than 24 hours after release;
- refer the individual to a qualified reproductive health care provider, as specified; and
- refer the individual to a community-based mental health and substance use professional for treatment and medication continuity in the jurisdiction of residence of the individual.

Immediately on release, or within not more than 10 calendar days after release, a pregnant incarcerated individual must be provided with a complete copy of the individual's medical records, mental health evaluations, addiction evaluations, and treatment assessments.

All correctional units must follow the clinical guidance of the American College of Nurse Midwives or the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists when providing care to pregnant incarcerated individuals.

**Current Law:** Chapter 532 established programs of OUD screening, evaluation, and treatment in local correctional facilities and in the Baltimore Pre-trial Complex.

### *Baltimore Pre-trial Complex Pilot Program*

As of January 1, 2020, DPSCS must establish a medication-assisted treatment (MAT) pilot program in the Baltimore Pre-trial Complex. The pilot program terminates September 30, 2023; however, the requirements apply permanently as of January 2023. Funding for the pilot program must be as provided in the State budget.

#### *Screening*

Each local correctional facility must conduct an assessment of the mental health and substance use status of each inmate using evidence-based screenings and assessments to determine if the medical diagnosis of an OUD is appropriate and if MAT is appropriate. If a required assessment indicates OUD, an evaluation of the inmate must be conducted by a specified health care practitioner, and information must be provided to the inmate describing medications used in MAT. In addition, MAT must be available to an inmate for whom such treatment is determined to be appropriate, as specified.

Each local correctional facility must make available at least one formulation of each U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved full opioid agonist, partial opioid agonist, and long-acting opioid antagonist used for the treatment of OUDs. If an inmate received medication or MAT for OUD immediately preceding or during the inmate's incarceration, a local correctional facility must continue the treatment after incarceration or transfer unless (1) the inmate voluntarily discontinues the treatment, verified through a written agreement that includes a signature or (2) a health care practitioner determines that the treatment is no longer medically appropriate.

#### *Treatment*

Each local correctional facility must:

- following an assessment using clinical guidelines for MAT, make medication available, as specified, or begin withdrawal management services prior to administration of medication;
- make available and administer medications for the treatment of OUD;
- provide behavioral health counseling for inmates diagnosed with OUD consistent with therapeutic standards for such therapies in a community setting;
- provide access to a health care practitioner who can provide access to all FDA-approved medications, as specified; and
- provide on-premises access to peer recovery specialists.

In addition, before the release of an inmate diagnosed with OUD, a local correctional facility must develop a plan of reentry that:

- includes information regarding post-incarceration access to medication continuity, peer recovery specialists, other supportive therapy, and enrollment in health insurance plans;
- includes any recommended referrals by a health care practitioner to medication continuity, peer recovery specialists, and other supportive therapy; and
- is reviewed and, if needed, revised by a health care practitioner or peer recovery specialist.

#### *Service Coordination Prior to Release*

Before the release of any inmate, DPSCS currently:

- works with MDH to give incarcerated individuals an opportunity to complete a Medicaid application within 90 days of the individual's release. If the individual chooses to complete the application, the individual is released with the individual's Medicaid card, Medicaid number, or a letter of Presumptive Eligibility if the Medicaid application is rejected. Medicaid covers individuals, including pregnant women, with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty guidelines (FPG). Pregnant women with incomes between 138% and 264% FPG may also qualify for Medicaid based on their pregnancy under the Sixth Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986, the "SOBRA" category;
- provides information regarding services in the jurisdiction of the individual's residence to continue programming offered within DPSCS facilities; and
- provides referrals for community-based mental health and substance use treatment.

DPSCS also provides a continuity of care form to each individual released from a DPSCS facility. The form includes a copy of the individual's current medication list for the individual to continue with appropriate care. If the individual's community provider would like to have additional information, the provider can request the information directly from the department.

**State Expenditures:** The overall increase in State expenditures cannot be reliably estimated at this time. However, MDH BHA general fund expenditures increase by at least \$339,400, and Medicaid expenditures (40% general funds, 60% federal funds) increase by at least \$253,280 in fiscal 2024 to place additional pregnant individuals in residential substance use programs. Federal fund revenues increase accordingly. DPSCS general fund expenditures increase minimally to provide services to pregnant incarcerated individuals.

To the extent that any existing State or federal funds can be used to support these costs, the need for additional general funds decreases.

### *Maryland Department of Health*

MDH estimates that an additional 26 individuals enter specialized substance use treatment annually as a result of the bill. This analysis assumes 20 individuals receive treatment in fiscal 2024 based on the bill's October 1, 2023 effective date. MDH advises that pregnant individuals with OUDs require approximately 90 days of residential treatment. Each month is estimated to cost \$9,878 per individual, or a total of \$29,634 for 90 days. Medicaid (40% general funds, 60% federal funds) would cover the cost of treatment, minus room and board (which is not an eligible expense) for the first and last 30 days of treatment. Thus, BHA general fund expenditures increase by at least \$339,400 in fiscal 2024, increasing to \$513,559 in fiscal 2028, and Medicaid expenditures (40% general funds, 60% federal funds) increase by at least \$253,280 in fiscal 2024, increasing to \$370,590 in fiscal 2028. Federal fund revenues increase accordingly. Future year estimates reflect a total of 26 women entering treatment annually and a 3.5% annual increase in treatment costs. To the extent pregnant women require fewer days of treatment, costs, particularly BHA general funds, are reduced.

In addition to the costs described above, BHA advises that it incurs costs to hire two program administrators to support screening referrals for pregnant women referred to community providers and specialized residential substance use treatment providers. However, Chapter 532 requires similar services for pregnant individuals with OUDs who are released from incarceration. Further, even if all 26 individuals actually seek treatment after release, the additional placements are not likely to have a significant impact on treatment providers statewide. Thus, the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) advises that support for the additional screening referrals can be handled with existing budgeted resources. To the extent that the number of referrals for pregnant individuals released from incarceration is higher than anticipated, MDH can request additional staff through the annual budget process.

### *Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services*

Overall, the bill's impact on general fund expenditures for DPSCS is anticipated to be minimal, as discussed below.

### *Assessment and Treatment*

Chapter 532 requires DPSCS to establish a MAT pilot program at the Baltimore Pre-trial Complex as of January 1, 2020; however, DPSCS has not yet implemented the pilot

program. DPSCS' [report](#) on SUD and MAT pursuant to the 2021 *Joint Chairmen's Report* states that DPSCS is not required to implement Chapter 532 until September 2023.

The fiscal and policy note for Chapter 532 indicated the need for DPSCS to hire 15 full-time employees, modify the medical contract, and renovate a portion of the Baltimore Pre-trial Complex in order to implement the Act. However, DPSCS advises that the only MAT medication currently offered at either the Baltimore Pre-trial Complex or at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCIW) is Methadone. DPSCS further advises that, in order to implement this bill's requirements relating to assessment and treatment, renovations to treatment rooms, and modifications to its medical contract (to include one addiction specialist) are needed at a cost of at least \$715,920 in fiscal 2024 (excluding medication costs). However, DLS advises that those costs at the Baltimore Pre-trial Complex result from Chapter 532 and not this bill.

DPSCS further advises that, during the last four fiscal years, a total of 21 women who reported drug addiction were arrested and held in DPSCS facilities. It should also be noted that in recent years, DPSCS has used less than one-third of its appropriated funds for drug treatment services at the Baltimore Pre-trial Complex and MCIW. The remaining funds have reverted back to the general fund each year.

Accordingly, because DPSCS is already required to establish the pilot program at the Baltimore Pre-trial Complex, because few pregnant incarcerated individuals require SUD treatment each year, and because DPSCS has not fully used available funding for drug treatment services in the past, it is assumed that any impact on general fund expenditures for DPSCS related to assessment and treatment is minimal.

#### *Reimbursement to Local Correctional Facilities*

It is assumed that any increase in State expenditures to reimburse local correctional facilities for any costs incurred is attributable to Chapter 532, not this bill. This is discussed in more detail below under the Local Fiscal Effect section of this fiscal and policy note.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** As of January 1, 2020, the requirements of Chapter 532 apply to local detention centers in Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties; as of October 1, 2021, the requirements apply to six additional counties; and as of January 1, 2023, the provisions apply to all local detention centers. Thus, this bill should have no additional fiscal impact beyond that which was accounted for in the fiscal and policy note for Chapter 532.

Pursuant to Chapter 532, the State must fund the OUD screening, evaluation, and treatment of inmates, including pregnant women. It is assumed, therefore, that the State must

reimburse local correctional facilities for any expenses incurred under this bill that would otherwise be incurred under Chapter 532.

**Additional Comments:** DPSCS reports that if a pregnant incarcerated individual with an SUD declines to initiate or wishes to discontinue treatment, the department's policy is to seek a court ruling regarding the effect of the decision on the unborn child and a determination on whether treatment can be declined or discontinued. The State is required to provide an advocate on behalf of the unborn child.

In addition, DPSCS advises that some medications used in MAT are harmful to pregnant women, pose risks of complications during pregnancy and birth defects, and increase the likelihood of addiction in newborns. Thus, if a pregnant incarcerated individual who is receiving treatment in a community-based opioid therapy program before incarceration learns of the pregnancy at intake, continuing the same medications as required by the bill may violate guidelines for medical care.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 1120 of 2022, HB 235 of 2021, and HB 524 of 2020.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 190 (Senator West, *et al.*) - Judicial Proceedings.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Caroline, Howard, and Prince George's counties; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Juvenile Services; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Maryland Insurance Administration; Department of Legislative Services

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