

HOUSE BILL 728

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5lr2502
CF SB 495

By: ~~Delegate Rosenberg~~ Delegates Rosenberg, Pena-Melnyk, Cullison, Alston, Bagnall, Bhandari, Guzzone, Hill, S. Johnson, Kaiser, Kerr, Lopez, Martinez, Taveras, Woods, Woorman, and Ross

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2025
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 3, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Opioid Restitution Fund – Authorized Uses**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the allowable uses of the Opioid Restitution Fund to provide
4 funds for the operating expenses and personnel costs for investigations, enforcement
5 actions, and other activities conducted by the Opioids Enforcement Unit within the
6 Office of the Attorney General that are related to the recovery of funds from
7 opioid-related judgments and settlements; and generally relating to the Opioid
8 Restitution Fund.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – State Finance and Procurement
11 Section 7–331(a) through (e)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – State Finance and Procurement
16 Section 7–331(f)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article – State Finance and Procurement

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



- 1 (iii) increasing access to medications that support recovery from
2 substance use disorders;
- 3 (iv) expanding the Heroin Coordinator Program, including for
4 administrative expenses;
- 5 (v) expanding access to crisis beds and residential treatment
6 services for adults and minors;
- 7 (vi) expanding and establishing safe stations, mobile crisis response
8 systems, and crisis stabilization centers;
- 9 (vii) supporting the behavioral health crisis hotline;
- 10 (viii) organizing primary and secondary school education campaigns
11 to prevent opioid use, including for administrative expenses;
- 12 (ix) enforcing the laws regarding opioid prescriptions and sales,
13 including for administrative expenses;
- 14 (x) research regarding and training for substance use treatment and
15 overdose prevention, including for administrative expenses; and
- 16 (xi) supporting and expanding other evidence-based interventions
17 for overdose prevention and substance use treatment;
- 18 (2) supporting community-based nonprofit recovery organizations that
19 provide nonclinical substance use recovery support services in the State;
- 20 (3) evidence-informed substance use disorder prevention, treatment
21 recovery, or harm reduction pilot programs or demonstration studies that are not
22 evidence-based if the Opioid Restitution Fund Advisory Council, established under §
23 7.5-902 of the Health – General Article:
- 24 (i) determines that emerging evidence supports the distribution of
25 money for the pilot program or that there is a reasonable basis for funding the
26 demonstration study with the expectation of creating an evidence-based program; and
- 27 (ii) approves the use of money for the pilot program or demonstration
28 study; [and]
- 29 (4) evaluations of the effectiveness and outcomes reporting for substance
30 use disorder abatement infrastructure, programs, services, supports, and resources for
31 which money from the Fund was used, including evaluations of the impact on access to
32 harm reduction services or treatment for substance use disorders and the reduction in
33 drug-related mortality; **AND**

1 **(5) OPERATING EXPENSES AND PERSONNEL COSTS FOR**
 2 **INVESTIGATIONS, ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY**
 3 **THE OPIOIDS ENFORCEMENT UNIT WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY**
 4 **GENERAL THAT ARE RELATED TO THE RECOVERY OF FUNDS FROM**
 5 **OPIOID-RELATED JUDGMENTS OR SETTLEMENTS.**

6 **(K) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND EACH OCTOBER 1**
 7 **THEREAFTER, THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL REPORT TO THE**
 8 **GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**
 9 **ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE STATUS OF ACTIVITY OF THE OPIOIDS**
 10 **ENFORCEMENT UNIT, INCLUDING:**

11 **(1) THE NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS TAKING PLACE;**

12 **(2) THE NUMBER OF LAWSUITS FILED; AND**

13 **(3) THE DISPOSITION OF LAWSUITS FILED.**

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
 15 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June 30, 2029,
 16 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
 17 of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.