

SENATE BILL 140

P1
SB 103/24 – EEE

(PRE-FILED)

5lr0930
CF 5lr1786

By: **Senator Jackson**

Requested: September 24, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Overdose Awareness Day

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

BY renumbering

Article – General Provisions

Section 7–416 through 7–421

to be Section 7–417 through 7–422, respectively

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – General Provisions

Section 7–416

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

Preamble

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7-416 through 7-421 of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-417 through 7-422, respectively.

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

Article – General Provisions

7-416.

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

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.