

HOUSE BILL 222

F1, F2
HB 852/25 – W&M & APP

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0685

By: **Delegate Vogel**

Requested: August 13, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Educational Institutions – Opioid Overdose-Reversing Medications – Policy**
3 **Requirements**
4 **(Naloxone Access Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education to update a certain drug
6 addiction and prevention education program to include information on the
7 mitigating effects of naloxone or other opioid overdose-reversing medication;
8 requiring each county board of education and certain institutions of higher education
9 to update certain policies to include information on authorized possession of naloxone
10 or other opioid overdose-reversing medication by certain individuals and immunity
11 from liability; altering the list of individuals who may administer certain medication
12 under a certain policy; and generally relating to programs and policies on naloxone
13 and other opioid overdose-reversing medication by educational institutions.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Education
16 Section 7-411 and 7-426.5
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
20 Article – Education
21 Section 11-1201
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
25 Article – Education
26 Section 11-1202 through 11-1204
27 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

2 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

3 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

4 **Article – Education**

5 7-411.

6 (a) The State Board shall develop and implement a program of drug addiction and
7 prevention education in the public schools.

8 (b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (c)(2) of this section, this program shall
9 be started before the sixth grade in each public school by teachers who are trained in the
10 field of drug education.

11 (2) The State Board shall establish standards for determining how a
12 teacher is considered to be “trained in the field of drug addiction and prevention education”
13 for the purposes of this section.

14 (c) (1) The program shall include instruction related to heroin and opioid
15 addiction and prevention, including information relating to the lethal effect of fentanyl **AND**
16 **THE MITIGATING EFFECTS OF NALOXONE OR OTHER OPIOID OVERDOSE-REVERSING**
17 **MEDICATIONS.**

18 (2) The instruction required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall
19 be:

20 (i) Delivered in grade bands as follows:

21 1. Third grade through fifth grade;

22 2. Sixth grade through eighth grade; and

23 3. Ninth grade through twelfth grade; and

24 (ii) A stand-alone unit in the program.

25 (d) This program shall be coordinated with other State agencies that are
26 responsible for drug abuse education and control.

27 7-426.5.

28 (a) Each county board shall establish a policy in accordance with school health
29 guidelines and State laws and regulations for public schools within its jurisdiction to
30 authorize [the school nurse, school health services personnel, and other school personnel]
31 **AN INDIVIDUAL ACTING IN GOOD FAITH** to administer naloxone or other **OPIOID**

1 overdose—reversing medication to a student or other person located on school property who
2 is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid overdose.

3 (b) The policy established under subsection (a) of this section shall include:

4 (1) A provision requiring all public schools to obtain and store at the public
5 school naloxone or other **OPIOID** overdose—reversing medication to be used in an emergency
6 situation; [and]

7 (2) A requirement that each public school develop and implement a method
8 for notifying the parents or guardians of students of the school's policy under this section
9 at the beginning of each school year; AND

10 (3) **AUTHORIZATION FOR A STUDENT, A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL'S**
11 **STAFF, OR ANY LAWFULLY PRESENT INDIVIDUAL AT THE SCHOOL OR A**
12 **SCHOOL-SPONSORED EVENT OR ACTIVITY TO POSSESS NALOXONE OR OTHER**
13 **OPIOID OVERDOSE-REVERSING MEDICATION.**

14 (c) Except for any willful or grossly negligent act, any [of the following individuals
15 who respond] **INDIVIDUAL WHO RESPONDS** in good faith to the overdose emergency of a
16 student, **A SCHOOL STAFF MEMBER, OR ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL LAWFULLY PRESENT**
17 **AT A SCHOOL** in accordance with this section may not be held personally liable for any act
18 or omission in the course of responding to the emergency[:

19 (1) A school nurse;

20 (2) Other school health services personnel who are licensed or certified to
21 practice a health occupation under the Health Occupations Article; or

22 (3) Other school personnel].

23 (d) (1) The county board or the local health department shall, by local
24 agreement:

25 (i) Hire a sufficient number of either county or regional community
26 action officials; or

27 (ii) Develop and implement a program that provides the community
28 relations and education functions required to be conducted by community action officials in
29 paragraph (2) of this subsection.

30 (2) A county or regional community action official shall:

31 (i) Coordinate school-based community forums, in cooperation with
32 local law enforcement officials; and

(ii) Conduct public relations efforts that include the following:

1. Parent contact;
2. Electronic media; and
3. Public service announcements.

5 [(e) (1) For fiscal year 2019, the Governor shall include an appropriation of at
6 least \$3,000,000 in general funds in the State budget for the Department for the purpose
7 of awarding grants to county boards to implement the policy and conduct the training
8 required under this section.

12 [(f)] (E) (1) On or before October 1 each year, each public school shall submit,
13 on the form that the Department requires, a report to the Department on each incident at
14 the school that required the use of naloxone or other **OPIOID** overdose-reversing
15 medication.

23 11-1201.

24 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, this subtitle applies only
25 to institutions of higher education in the State that receive operating or capital funding
26 from the State.

27 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, this subtitle does
28 not apply to:

29 (i) The University of Maryland Global Campus;

30 (ii) The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science;
31 or

(iii) An off-campus nonresidential location of an institution of higher education.

6 11-1202.

15 (2) Provide incoming part-time students with resources that alert and
16 educate the students regarding heroin and opioid addiction and prevention; and

(3) Obtain and store at the institution naloxone or other **OPIOID** overdose-reversing medication to be used in an emergency situation.

19 (C) ANY TRAINING PROVIDED UNDER THE POLICY ESTABLISHED UNDER
20 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION ON THE
21 MITIGATING EFFECTS OF NALOXONE OR OTHER OPIOID OVERDOSE-REVERSING
22 MEDICATION.

23 11-1203.

24 (a) The policy established under this subtitle shall include:

25 (1) Training for campus police or other designated personnel on how to
26 recognize the symptoms of an opioid overdose;

27 (2) Procedures for the administration of naloxone or other **OPIOID**
28 overdose-reversing medications: [and]

29 (3) The proper follow-up emergency procedures; AND

1 **INSTITUTION TO POSSESS NALOXONE OR OTHER OPIOID OVERDOSE-REVERSING**
2 **MEDICATION.**

3 (b) Except for any willful or grossly negligent act, [campus police or other
4 designated personnel who have been trained under subsection (a)(1) of this section and who
5 respond] **ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO RESPONDS** in good faith to the overdose emergency of a
6 student, **A STAFF MEMBER, OR ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL LAWFULLY PRESENT** in
7 accordance with this section may not be held personally liable for any act or omission in the
8 course of responding to the emergency.

9 11-1204.

10 [(a)] On or before October 1 each year, each institution of higher education shall
11 report to the Commission on each incident at the institution that required the use of
12 naloxone or other **OPIOID** overdose-reversing medication.

13 [(b) On or before December 1, 2018, December 1, 2019, and December 1, 2020, the
14 Commission shall report the information provided under subsection (a) of this section to
15 the General Assembly in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.]

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
17 1, 2026.