

# SENATE BILL 527

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CF 6lr1478

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By: Senator Harris

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Ibogaine Clinical Research Grant Program – Establishment**  
3 **(Veterans Mental Health Innovations Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Ibogaine Clinical Research Grant Program to provide  
5 grants to certain research institutions to conduct certain clinical drug development  
6 trials on the use of ibogaine; including the Program as an authorized use of funding  
7 from the Opioid Restitution Fund; and generally relating to the Ibogaine Clinical  
8 Research Grant Program.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Health – General  
11 Section 13–5901 and 13–5902 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 59. Ibogaine  
12 Clinical Research Grant Program”  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

16 Article – State Finance and Procurement

17 Section 7–331(a) through (e)

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

21 Article – State Finance and Procurement

22 Section 7–331(f)

23 Annotated Code of Maryland

24 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

26 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



## 1 Article – Health – General

## 2 SUBTITLE 59. IBOGAINE CLINICAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM.

3 13–5901.

4 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
5 INDICATED.

6 (B) “ELIGIBLE RESEARCH INSTITUTION” MEANS AN ENTITY:

7 (1) LOCATED IN THE STATE;

8 (2) WITH A HISTORY OF RESEARCH AND TREATMENT OF  
9 NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES AND EXPERTISE IN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER,  
10 POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, OR TRAUMA;11 (3) WITH A NEUROSURGERY PROGRAM WITH CLINICAL RESEARCH  
12 FACILITIES THAT ARE:13 (I) STAFFED BY PROFESSIONALS WITH EXPERTISE IN  
14 NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROSURGICAL CONDITIONS; AND15 (II) CAPABLE OF PROVIDING THE NECESSARY  
16 INFRASTRUCTURE AND EXPERTISE TO DELIVER CARDIAC INTENSIVE CARE  
17 SERVICES; AND18 (4) ABLE TO FACILITATE PIONEERING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION  
19 IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.20 (C) (1) “IBOGAINE” MEANS THE NATURALLY OCCURRING PSYCHOACTIVE  
21 COMPOUND FOUND IN THE ROOT BARK OF THE IBOGA PLANT.22 (2) “IBOGAINE” INCLUDES IBOGAINE-BASED THERAPEUTICS AND  
23 IBOGAINE ANALOGS.24 (D) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE IBOGAINE CLINICAL RESEARCH GRANT  
25 PROGRAM.

26 13–5902.

27 (A) THERE IS AN IBOGAINE CLINICAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM IN THE  
28 DEPARTMENT.

6 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

10 (D) (1) THE DEPARTMENT MAY AWARD UP TO THREE GRANTS TO  
11 ELIGIBLE RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS EACH YEAR.

15 (E) (1) AN ELIGIBLE RESEARCH INSTITUTION MAY USE A GRANT  
16 AWARDED UNDER THE PROGRAM ONLY TO CONDUCT A CERTIFIED CLINICAL DRUG  
17 DEVELOPMENT TRIAL OVERSEEN BY THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
18 ON THE USE OF IBOGAINE FOR THE TREATMENT OF:

(II) ANY OTHER NEUROLOGICAL CONDITION FOR WHICH  
IBOGAINE DEMONSTRATES EFFICACY.

22 (2) AN ELIGIBLE RESEARCH INSTITUTION AWARDED A GRANT UNDER  
23 THE PROGRAM SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY:

24 (I) A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE CLINICAL DRUG  
25 DEVELOPMENT TRIAL SUPPORTED BY THE GRANT; AND

26 (II) A FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT, INCLUDING INFORMATION  
27 TO VERIFY EXPENDITURES OF GRANT FUNDS AND PROOF OF MATCHING FUNDS  
28 PROVIDED BY THE ELIGIBLE RESEARCH INSTITUTION.

29 (3) AN ELIGIBLE RESEARCH INSTITUTION AWARDED A GRANT UNDER  
30 THE PROGRAM MAY SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH A CONSORTIUM ESTABLISHED BY

1 THE GOVERNMENT OF ANOTHER STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF JOINING A CERTIFIED  
2 CLINICAL DRUG DEVELOPMENT TRIAL OVERSEEN BY THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG  
3 ADMINISTRATION ON THE USE OF IBOGAINE FOR THE TREATMENT OF:

4 (I) OPIOID USE DISORDER; AND

5 (II) ANY OTHER NEUROLOGICAL CONDITION FOR WHICH  
6 IBOGAINE DEMONSTRATES EFFICACY.

7 (F) FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2028 THROUGH 2030, THE GOVERNOR  
8 SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000  
9 FROM THE OPIOID RESTITUTION FUND FOR THE PROGRAM.

10 (G) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2028, THE  
11 DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
12 § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON:

13 (1) (I) THE NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED;

14 (II) THE VALUE OF EACH GRANT AWARDED; AND

15 (III) THE ELIGIBLE RESEARCH INSTITUTION TO WHICH EACH  
16 GRANT WAS AWARDED;

17 (2) THE PROGRESS OF THE CLINICAL DRUG DEVELOPMENT TRIALS  
18 SUPPORTED BY A GRANT AWARDED UNDER THE PROGRAM; AND

19 (3) THE FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE CLINICAL DRUG DEVELOPMENT  
20 TRIALS SUPPORTED BY A GRANT AWARDED UNDER THE PROGRAM.

21 Article – State Finance and Procurement

22 7-331.

23 (a) In this section, “Fund” means the Opioid Restitution Fund.

24 (b) There is an Opioid Restitution Fund.

25 (c) The purpose of the Fund is to retain the amount of settlement revenues  
26 deposited to the Fund in accordance with subsection (e)(1) of this section.

27 (d) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of  
28 this subtitle.

(2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

3 (e) The Fund consists of:

4 (1) all revenues received by the State from any source resulting, directly or  
5 indirectly, from any judgment against, or settlement with, opioid manufacturers, opioid  
6 research associations, or any other person in the opioid industry relating to any claims  
7 made or prosecuted by the State to recover damages for violations of State law; and

8 (2) the interest earnings of the Fund.

15 (2) supporting community-based nonprofit recovery organizations that  
16 provide nonclinical substance use recovery support services in the State;

17 (3) addressing racial disparities in access to prevention, harm reduction,  
18 treatment, and recovery support services;

19 (4) addressing socioeconomic disparities in access to prevention, harm  
20 reduction, treatment, and recovery support services;

(5) evidence-informed substance use disorder prevention, treatment recovery, or harm reduction pilot programs or demonstration studies that are not evidence-based if the Opioid Restitution Fund Advisory Council, established under § 7.5-902 of the Health – General Article:

25 (i) determines that emerging evidence supports the distribution of  
26 money for the pilot program or that there is a reasonable basis for funding the  
27 demonstration study with the expectation of creating an evidence-based program; and

28 (ii) approves the use of money for the pilot program or demonstration  
29 study;

(8) the Buprenorphine Training Grant Program established under § 13-5802 of the Health – General Article; AND

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
10 October 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of September  
11 30, 2031, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be  
12 abrogated and of no further force and effect.