

SENATE BILL 527

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CF 6lr1478

By: **Senator Harris**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Article – Health – General**SUBTITLE 59. IBOGAINE CLINICAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM.****13–5901.**

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

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

(1) LOCATED IN THE STATE;

(2) WITH A HISTORY OF RESEARCH AND TREATMENT OF NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES AND EXPERTISE IN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER, POST–TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, OR TRAUMA;

(3) WITH A NEUROSURGERY PROGRAM WITH CLINICAL RESEARCH FACILITIES THAT ARE:

(I) STAFFED BY PROFESSIONALS WITH EXPERTISE IN NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROSURGICAL CONDITIONS; AND

(II) CAPABLE OF PROVIDING THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE AND EXPERTISE TO DELIVER CARDIAC INTENSIVE CARE SERVICES; AND

(4) ABLE TO FACILITATE PIONEERING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

(C) (1) “IBOGAINE” MEANS THE NATURALLY OCCURRING PSYCHOACTIVE COMPOUND FOUND IN THE ROOT BARK OF THE IBOGA PLANT.

(2) “IBOGAINE” INCLUDES IBOGAINE–BASED THERAPEUTICS AND IBOGAINE ANALOGS.

(D) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE IBOGAINE CLINICAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM.

13–5902.

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

1 **(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE**
2 **RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS TO CONDUCT A CERTIFIED CLINICAL DRUG**
3 **DEVELOPMENT TRIAL OVERSEEN BY THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION**
4 **ON THE USE OF IBOGAINE FOR THE TREATMENT OF OPIOID USE DISORDER AND**
5 **OTHER NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.**

6 **(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

7 **(1) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND**
8 **MILITARY FAMILIES, ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; AND**

9 **(2) ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROGRAM.**

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

12 **(2) AN ELIGIBLE RESEARCH INSTITUTION SHALL PROVIDE**
13 **MATCHING FUNDS THAT ARE AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE GRANT AMOUNT AWARDED TO**
14 **THE ELIGIBLE RESEARCH INSTITUTION.**

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:**

19 **(I) OPIOID USE DISORDER; AND**

20 **(II) ANY OTHER NEUROLOGICAL CONDITION FOR WHICH**
21 **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.

(e) The Fund consists of:

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

(2) the interest earnings of the Fund.

(f) The Fund may be used only to provide funds for the purposes specified in settlement agreements and judgments relating to claims by the State against opioid manufacturers, opioid research associations, or any other person in the opioid industry for violations of State law, including:

(1) programs, services, supports, and resources for evidence-based substance use disorder prevention, treatment, recovery, or harm reduction;

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

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

(4) addressing socioeconomic disparities in access to prevention, harm 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:

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

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

(6) evaluations of the effectiveness and outcomes reporting for substance use disorder abatement infrastructure, programs, services, supports, and resources for which money from the Fund was used, including evaluations of the impact on access to harm reduction services or treatment for substance use disorders and the reduction in drug-related mortality;

(7) operating expenses and personnel costs for investigations, enforcement actions, and other activities conducted by the Opioids Enforcement Unit within the Office of the Attorney General that are related to the recovery of funds from opioid-related judgments or settlements; [and]

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

**(9) THE IBOGAINE CLINICAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM
ESTABLISHED UNDER § 13-5902 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.**

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