



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 710 - Health – General – Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – County Health Officer

SPONSOR: Senator Bailey

HEARING DATE: March 5, 2020

COMMITTEE: Finance

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 710 Health – General – Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – County Health Officer**, which provides local health departments data to identify and educate health care providers who prescribe significantly higher amounts of controlled dangerous substances than their peers.

Among other functions, the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) assists local health departments (LHDs) with the investigation of patient prescription drug history. Currently, LHD investigators must register with the PDMP and can request data to support an existing investigation, typically associated with the Overdose Fatality Review Committee. This committee addresses about 20 cases annually. This individual-level information does not provide a global view of opioid prescribing in the County.

Local health departments monitor the population to identify and treat potential health hazards. Currently, there is no way at the local level to identify providers whose prescribing behavior exceeds recommended guidelines. This bill permits local health departments to monitor the flow of controlled substances in the community, as they do with other key indicators of population health. With this information, LHDs will be able to monitor providers and provide them with evidence-based recommendations for maximizing therapeutic impact while minimizing addiction risk. Physicians acknowledge that the use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs can improve pain management care by increasing adherence to opioid prescribing guidelines.

LHDs could also use this information to assess continuity of care in the event of a practice closure, and to evaluate community concerns about quality of care.

Most importantly, SB 710 provides an opportunity to improve prescriber behavior through public health education prior to enforcement action.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 710** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.