



**Committee:** House Health and Government Affairs Committee  
**Bill Number:** House Bill 1125  
**Title:** Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – Prescribers of Opioids – Notification Requirement  
**Hearing Date:** March 4, 2021  
**Position:** Oppose

---

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) and the Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) opposes *House Bill 1125 – Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – Prescribers of Opioids – Notification Requirement*. The bill would require prescribers and dispensers of opioids to notify the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program for every prescription for opioids: 1) whether the prescriber has received education regarding the risks of opioid use; 2) if the prescriber is aware of the availability of opioid reversal drugs; and 3) whether the prescriber has dispensed an opioid reversal drug.

We support initiatives to remove barriers to opioid reversal medications. However, we are opposed to this legislation because of the lack of clarity around the intent of the bill:

- Is the underlying intent that the prescriber should receive education about opioid risks and the availability of opioid reversal drugs? If so, we believe this bill is duplicative, as the Maryland General Assembly enacted education requirements under House Bill 1452 in the 2018 session. All prescribers of controlled dangerous substances are required to take a training to obtain a controlled dangerous substance (CDS) registration;
- Or is the underlying intent that a prescriber should notify the Program with the issuance of every new opioid prescription on whether the patient has been given education about the risks, information about an opioid reversal drug, and prescription for an opioid reversal drug? If so, we are concerned about the implications for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. The Program is not set-up as an electronic health record where detailed information is collected about each patient interaction. We would also note that the Health Occupations Article § 1-223 already requires that prescribers discuss the risks of opioids with patients.

For these reasons, we ask for an unfavorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.