



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

SB 419

**Opioid Restitution Fund –
Appropriation of Settlement
Funds**

County Position: FAVORABLE

Date: February 22, 2022
Committee: Finance

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner urges a **FAVORABLE** report for Senate Bill 419 – Opioid Restitution Fund – Appropriation of Settlement Funds.

As have other Maryland jurisdictions, Frederick County has devoted a tremendous amount of resources to the opioid crisis to help residents with educational initiatives and assistance in recovery. Opioid addiction affects many lives and there has been an increase in opioid-related overdoses during the pandemic. A range of tools and approaches are necessary to halt the illegal distribution of drugs and help residents achieve recovery.

County Executive Gardner supports the provisions in the proposed legislation that:

- Implements, as agreed to by the State and its political subdivisions, the allocation and distribution of state funds received from settlements with opioid manufacturers and those associated with the industry;
- Requires the Opioid Restitution Fund and grant program to distribute funds to local governments as specified by the State-Subdivision Agreement;
- Ensures local governments will have the ability to supplement resources in a way that expands services and treatment, supports preventative programs and education, as well enables training and enforcement of laws related to opioid prescriptions and sales; and
- Supports local governments in their efforts to help residents achieve recovery, prevent opioid use, and halt the illegal distribution and sales of these drugs.

Frederick County Executive Gardner urges a **FAVORABLE** report for Senate Bill 419.