

**SB0196-FIN\_MACo\_SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: D'Paul Nibber

Position: FAV



## Senate Bill 196

### *Maryland Department of Health - Overdose Report*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

Date: January 18, 2022

From: D'Paul Nibber

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 196. This bill extends the scheduled sunset of a report that has proven very useful to county health officers and others who continue to struggle in the fight to combat opioid misuse and overdoses.

There is an existing legal requirement that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) “examine and report on fatal overdoses involving opioids and other controlled substances.” This bill would - in addition to certain technical changes to existing law - extend the sunset on this requirement from July 31, 2022, to July 31, 2024.

In 2021, opioid-related overdoses and overdose deaths reached record levels in Maryland. To address the ongoing epidemic, county health officers and human services officials have evaluated and allocated resources using the overdose report referenced in SB 196. The report makes certain otherwise inaccessible datasets readily available to county officials including demographic information, Medicaid claims data, and criminal justice statistics. Such data is an important element in the continuing effort.

Understanding the importance of data in managing the ongoing opioid epidemic, counties believe a sunset extension of the overdose report is warranted. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 196 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

**FIN\_SB 196\_MDH\_LoS.pdf**

Uploaded by: Heather Shek

Position: FAV



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

January 18, 2022

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
Chair, Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: SB 196 – Maryland Department of Health – Overdose Report – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Kelley and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is submitting this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 196 – Maryland Department of Health – Overdose Report.

In 2018, the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill (HB) 922 (Chapter 211 of the Acts of 2018), which requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to produce an annual overdose report on fatal overdoses involving opioids and other controlled substances through July 31, 2022. Following the passage of this legislation, MDH laid the foundation for this annual report. In January 2021, recognizing the need to prioritize this work, the Governor's Office identified the Opioid Operations Command Center (OOCC) as the lead agency to produce the overdose report. Since then, the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) has worked collaboratively with OOCC and jointly created the Data-Informed Overdose Risk Mitigation (DORM) project to execute MDH's responsibilities under HB 922 (Chapter 211).

SB 196 would extend the sunset date of this legislation by two years through July 31, 2024. This will allow BHA and OOCC to continue to collaborate to enhance MDH's ability to use existing administrative datasets to understand overdose trends, risk and protective factors, and inform the state's opioid response strategy.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Heather Shek, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs at (443) 695-4218 or [heather.shek@maryland.gov](mailto:heather.shek@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis R. Schrader".

Dennis R. Schrader  
Secretary

**FIN\_SB 196\_OOCC\_LoS.pdf**

Uploaded by: Heather Shek

Position: FAV

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**OPIOID OPERATIONAL COMMAND CENTER**



**ROBIN E. RICKARD**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MARYLAND 21032

January 18, 2022

The Honorable Delores Kelley  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 196 –Maryland Department of Health - Overdose Report – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Kelley and Committee Members:

The Opioid Operational Command Center (O OCC) is submitting this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 196 - Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Overdose Report.

In 2018, the Maryland General Assembly (MGA) enacted House Bill (HB) 922 (Chapter 211 of the Acts of 2018), which requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to produce an annual report linking overdose death records to various system-level datasets for the purpose of establishing overdose risk profiles. Information gleaned from these risk profiles will inform statewide policy and strategy aimed at reducing overdose mortality. At a time when the state and country are grappling with an increase in overdose-related deaths, having actionable information on populations at the greatest risk for overdose is vitally important for ensuring that resources are directed as effectively as possible.

The previous legislation requiring MDH to produce this report will sunset on July 31, 2022. SB 196 would extend the sunset date by two years to July 31, 2024. MDH laid the foundation for the annual overdose report and then in January 2021, the Governor's Office identified the O OCC as the lead agency to produce the overdose report. Once the transfer occurred the O OCC formalized the various efforts being undertaken in support of the project under a new framework titled the Data-Informed Overdose Risk Mitigation (DORM) initiative.

In close partnership with the Behavioral Health Administration, substantial progress has been made to establish a robust programmatic foundation that supports inter-agency data sharing, linkage, and analysis to continue to advance the DORM initiative. The O OCC submitted the first report under this new framework (DORM) to the Governor and the MGA in June 2021. The findings from this report have helped identify opportunities for novel programs and interventions that have the potential to immediately reduce opioid-related mortality. This has been critically important for the development of our annual Inter-Agency Opioid Coordination Plan, Maryland's strategic framework for addressing the opioid and overdose crisis.

The recent increase in momentum for DORM has helped our office to substantially improve the data foundation for the state's opioid and overdose response. This, in turn, will help make various programmatic efforts more effective. MDH is currently negotiating with several other state departments to incorporate their datasets into next year's DORM report, which will further strengthen analyses.

With the tremendous amount of progress that has been made to advance the DORM initiative and the very real impacts that we have seen as a result of this work, we urge a favorable report for SB 196. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you would like to discuss this further please contact Marianne Gibson at 443-381-4377 or [marianne.gibson@maryland.gov](mailto:marianne.gibson@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,



Robin E. Rickard  
Executive Director  
Opioid Operational Command Center

# **SB0196\_FAV\_MedChi\_MDH - Overdose Report.pdf**

Uploaded by: Pam Kasemeyer

Position: FAV



# MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Maryland Department of Health

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine K. Krone

DATE: January 18, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 196 – *Maryland Department of Health – Overdose Report*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 193.

Senate Bill 193 proposes to simplify the statutory language, which describes the information to be evaluated by the Department, in compiling their Overdose Report. The simplification does not decrease or limit the scope of information to be evaluated and will provide greater flexibility in identifying relevant information and data. Senate Bill 193 also extends the requirement to conduct the study and produce an annual Overdose Report for an additional two years.

Given the continuing dramatic increase in the number of overdoses, the production of the Overdose Report provides State Agencies, legislators, health care practitioners, and community advocates with critical information to frame policy initiatives which address overdoses. To that end, MedChi would be supportive of extending the sunset date longer than 2 years if the General Assembly was so inclined. MedChi would also encourage the State to evaluate programs and data from other states related to innovative programs, such as safe injection sites and to include that analysis in their annual report. MedChi urges a favorable report.

**For more information call:**

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

J. Steven Wise

Danna L. Kauffman

Christine K. Krone

410-244-7000