



House Health & Government Operations Committee
March 15, 2022

House Bill 391
General Provisions - Commemorative Days - Overdose Awareness

Support

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the pre-existing opioid overdose death fatality crisis has worsened. In Maryland, the number of opioid-related deaths increased by 20% between 2019 and 2020, and preliminary data indicates a continued increase in 2021.

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 391. August 31st has been recognized as Overdose Awareness Day around the world since 2001. Events are held that day in cities and towns all over the globe, in remembrance of those lost to overdoses.

Awareness days are opportunities for community groups, employers, schools, and local officials to conduct educational and advocacy events to promote prevention and policies that create greater access to treatment, harm reduction services, and recovery supports. These events are also intended to reduce the stigma associated with the disease and help those still grieving find comfort among those who have also lost loved one.

NCADD-Maryland believes that more attention brought to this tragic crisis that continues to worsen is worthwhile. We urge your support of House Bill 578.