



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 7, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

### **RE: HB 570 – Public Health – Prescription Opioids – Deactivation Systems – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 570 – Public Health – Prescription Opioids – Deactivation/Disposal Systems. HB 570 prohibits the dispensing of prescription opioids unless the dispenser provides a personal use pharmaceutical disposal system to the user at no cost. The bill further allows MDH to procure and provide these deactivation/disposal systems to each pharmacy in the State.

There are several prescription deactivation and disposal systems on the market that may be used for opioid deactivation and disposal. These systems can range from products that mix pills or liquids with unwanted medications, to disposal pouches that dissolve unwanted medications when mixed with water.

MDH recognizes the importance of being able to safely dispose of unwanted or expired prescription opioids. Maryland has several free ways to safely dispose of medications including: (1) individuals can request a free disposal bag provided by a partnership with 2-1-1 Maryland and the Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative;<sup>1</sup> (2) permanent collection sites that are registered with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration;<sup>2</sup> and (3) temporary drug collection sites that are set up in communities for the safe disposal of prescription drugs, such as those set up for drug take-back days.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs at [megan.peters@maryland.gov](mailto:megan.peters@maryland.gov) or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary

<sup>1</sup>

<https://211md.org/resources/substance-use/drug-disposal/#:~:text=Drug%20Take%20Back%20Day,Saturday%2C%20October%2029%2C%202022.>

<sup>2</sup>

<https://apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main.jsessionid=9G2IdW30QnElh39McSYEUCwhw1OkL-3eC0VGyf qG.web1?execution=e1s1>