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BILL NO.: **HB 203**

TITLE: Correctional Services – Local Detention Centers – Reporting on
Opioid Use Disorder

SPONSOR: Chairman Clippinger (By Request – Administration)

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

DATE: March 7, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** House Bill 203 – Correctional Services – Local Detention Centers – Reporting on Opioid Use Disorder. This legislation makes changes in reporting requirements intended to remove duplicative data variables in evaluating substance use disorders in detention centers.

Research demonstrates that providing medically-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder in corrections settings improves treatment and recovery outcomes for returning individuals and also reduces fatal and nonfatal overdoses. Otherwise, incarcerated individuals are at significant increased risk of overdose upon release. Every opioid overdose death is the tragic loss of a loved one. It is imperative that Baltimore County and the State of Maryland continue to collaborate to combat the deadly opioid pandemic plaguing our communities.

Baltimore County supports the amendments to HB 203 proposed by the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) that will provide needed support to the Counties in providing this treatment. Currently, Baltimore County has the second highest number of overdoses in the State, translating to one of the highest jurisdictional costs associated with combating this crisis. While Baltimore County is committed to providing Medically-Assisted Treatment to individuals who need it, it can be quite costly. With support provided by the State, Baltimore County can continue to provide this essential care.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on HB 203 from the House Judiciary Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.