



**House Judiciary Committee
March 7, 2024**

**House Bill 203 – Correctional Services - Local Detention Centers –
Reporting on Opioid Use Disorder**

Support with Amendments

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 203 as written. We are aware that the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) is asking for amendments that would direct funds from the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF) to reimburse local detention centers for implementing the Medication Assisted Treatment in Jails bill from 2019 (HB 116). This is where we are requesting additional language.

NCADD-Maryland was a strong proponent of the law that passed in 2019 and have had a position of supporting special funds from the State to assist in the implementation. We therefore are not opposed to using funding from the ORF to support these efforts to some degree. We strongly support the amendments offered by MACo that include transparency in the reporting by detention centers on how they are spending money for these services.

In addition, we ask for the following amendment that would require local detention centers to begin examining their health care contracts for eventual inclusion of these services as a regular part of their provision of health care services to people in their custody. Substance use disorder treatment is not a special or extra service that is optional. Treatment is health care and the State and local governments should work toward including these services and their costs into their health care contracts.

Amendment No. 1, on page 11, line 1, insert:

SECTION 2, AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That facilities shall certify to the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services that they are in health care contracts that include the provision of medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorders and any related counseling services by July 1, 2027. The Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services shall provide technical assistance to ensure facilities have the required contracts.

With these amendments, we ask for a favorable report on House Bill 203.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.