



**House Judiciary Committee
March 7, 2024**

House Bill 1031 – Correctional Services – Medication–Assisted Treatment

Support with Amendments

NCADD-Maryland supports amending House Bill 1031 in two ways. First, we support the sponsor’s amendment that remove the brackets on page 3 in lines 26 and 29. Those brackets repeal the mandate, passed in 2019, that local detention centers provide medication assisted treatment for people with opioid use disorders. As we understand this was a drafting error, we support the sponsor’s amendment to remove those brackets.

NCADD-Maryland also has no objection to the amendment that clarifies partial opioid agonists can be transmucosal or long-acting. While we believe the language in the existing law does not prohibit any particular formulation, we can support the clarification.

As for the section that provides for funding to come from the Opioid Restitution Fund, we are generally supportive of using these funds to help local detention centers get these services provided. We support the amendments offered by the Maryland Association of Counties 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 1031.