



**Senate Finance Committee**

**March 25, 2025**

**House Bill 1131**

**Public Health – Buprenorphine – Training Grant Program and Workgroup  
Support with Amendment**

NCADD-Maryland supports efforts promoted by House Bill 1131, to have first responders offer buprenorphine induction to people revived from an opioid overdose. While not used broadly at this time, this strategy is expanding and is proving to have positive results.

In a study published by the American College of Emergency Physicians in 2022, the conclusion was exceptionally positive:

*Patients who encountered paramedics trained to administer buprenorphine and able to arrange prompt substance use disorder treatment after an acute opioid overdose demonstrated a decrease in opioid withdrawal symptoms, an increase in outpatient addiction follow-up care, and showed no difference in repeat overdose. Patients receiving buprenorphine in the out-of-hospital setting did not experience precipitated withdrawal. Expanded out-of-hospital treatment of opiate use disorder is a promising model for rapid access to buprenorphine after an overdose in a patient population that often has limited contact with the health care system. (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36192278/>)*

NCADD-Maryland's understanding is that the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) is already exploring this activity. We believe this strategy will contribute to a continuation of Maryland's declining rate of opioid overdose deaths and we ask for favorable consideration with one amendment.

**Amendment Request**

The General Assembly is on its way to passing another bill, Senate Bill 594/House Bill 729, that will streamline our Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF) statute by aligning its allowable uses to those described in national settlement agreements. That bill will add clarity to Maryland's fund, and actually expand the uses to some activities that were not included in our 2019 statute, which pre-dates the settlements. To not create a technical conflict when all of these bills pass, we request lines 26 and 27 on page 4 be struck. The use of ORF funds requested in HB 1131 are clearly identified in the [National Settlement Agreement](#).