



Senate Bill 589

Opioid Restitution Fund - Interactive Dashboard

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Health and Government Operations
Committee

Date: March 19, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 589, as amended by the Senate. MACo appreciates the sponsor's willingness to address county concerns and amend the bill. This bill seeks to enhance public transparency by requiring the Maryland Office of Overdose Response (MOOR) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to develop and maintain an interactive dashboard detailing opioid restitution fund spending. The dashboard would provide critical information, including estimated settlement payments to the State and local jurisdictions, past and planned spending, and performance measures for funded initiatives.

Counties support the goal of transparency in opioid settlement fund allocations and spending. MACo appreciates the amendments, which ensure the bill aligns with existing robust county reporting requirements and avoids redundant administrative burdens.

The amendments to the bill recognize that counties are already subject to copious reporting obligations under multiple funding mechanisms and wisely remove additional and burdensome funding requirements.

Counties remain committed to accountability in opioid settlement spending while prioritizing meaningful, life-saving initiatives. MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 589 as amended and respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report.