



## Maryland's Office of Overdose Response

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Emily Keller, Special Secretary of Overdose Response

February 19, 2025

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
240 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 798 - Opioid Restitution Fund - Interactive Dashboard

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk:

Maryland's Office of Overdose Response (MOOR) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (SB) 798, which would require MOOR and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to develop and maintain an interactive dashboard on Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF) spending and would require counties and municipalities receiving settlement funding to provide certain information to MOOR and MDH to include on the dashboard.

MDH currently maintains the state's Overdose Data Dashboard.<sup>1</sup> This interactive dashboard contains a multitude of important overdose data, including current overdose mortality rates, historic trends, EMS naloxone administrations, and overdose-related emergency department visits. If HB798 passes, MOOR would allocate funds from the ORF to MDH in order for MDH to further develop this existing dashboard to meet the new requirements imposed by HB798. MOOR estimates that this would cost \$72,708 in FY26 for development and \$2,000 in subsequent fiscal years for maintenance costs.

HB798 also would require the dashboard to include information on public hearings about the ORF conducted at the state, county, and municipal levels. Currently, locals are not required by the state to have or report public meetings, and it could be challenging for the dashboard developers to maintain an accurate and updated list on public hearings. Instead, the dashboard could feature a link to each local jurisdiction's most relevant government webpage.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Benjamin Fraifeld, Associate Director for Policy & Advocacy at MOOR, 443-346-3013.

Sincerely,

Emily Keller  
Special Secretary of Overdose Response

<sup>1</sup> <https://health.maryland.gov/dataoffice/Pages/mdh-dashboards.aspx>