



BALTIMORE CITY

SUBSTANCE ABUSE DIRECTORATE

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House Health & Government Operations Program

March 13, 2025

House Bill 1502 - Baltimore City - AIDS Prevention Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Pilot Program - Revisions

Support

The Baltimore City Directorate strongly supports House Bill 1502 - Baltimore City - AIDS Prevention Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Pilot Program - Revisions. Baltimore was the first jurisdiction in Maryland to establish what was then called needle exchange programs. Today, Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) have been made a significant difference in the lives of people who use drugs and had well-studied, positive public health outcomes. These programs have many benefits, including:

- Reducing the transmission of infectious diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis C
- Distributing naloxone to reverse opioid overdoses
- Linking people to various health services, including substance use disorder treatment
- Providing for the safe disposal of syringes

We support Baltimore City's request to update the state statute that governs City programs. HB 1502 will modernize the statute to reflect current public health best practices, local government needs, and eliminate stigmatizing language.

We ask for a favorable report on HB 1502.

Sincerely,

Ashley Archie, LCSW-C

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President
Baltimore City Substance Abuse Directorate

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