



HB 1084

Correctional Services – Medication-Assisted Treatment Funding

MCAA Position: **SUPPORT w/Amendment**

TO: Judiciary and Health and Government
and Operations

DATE: February 28, 2025

FROM: Ryan Ross, President
Lamonte Cooke, Legislative Committee
Mary Ann Thompson, Legislative
Committee

The Maryland Correctional Administrator's Association (MCAA), an organization comprised of our statewide jail wardens and administrators for promoting and improving best correctional practices, appreciates the opportunity to provide information regarding House Bill 1084.

House Bill 116 was enacted in 2019 as a state-funded mandate but has not played out as anticipated to date. By law, local detention centers throughout the State have implemented Medicated Assisted Treatment Programs. Since then, however, local detention centers have struggled to fund the program and all its tenets because the process for receiving grant funding from competitive applications for mandated programs has been inconsistent and onerous. The bill, as written, required local detention centers to submit for grant funding, and the law clearly states that the State will provide the budgetary monies to implement and maintain the program. Local detention centers do not have the resources to apply for multiple competitive grants to only get a fraction of the costs covered, while also needing to report on the multiple grants in addition to the detailed statistical data required by the law.

This bill amends the original law to remove some of that burden by requiring a county to demonstrate a single application for grant funding before receiving full reimbursement from the state. This helps jurisdictions avoid trying to piece together what is sometimes 3-5 different sources and forces the state to comply with the original intent of the bill, which was to fully fund the local programs.

MCAA has carefully reviewed the bill, collaborated with partners from MACO, and affected the State of Maryland agencies. MCAA would support the bill with the following amendments that are consistent with the consensus achieved by the sponsors panel.