

TO: House Committee on Ways and Means

BILL: House Bill (HB) 852 – *Educational Institutions – Opioid Overdose-Reversing Medications – Policy Requirements*

DATE: February 25, 2025

POSITION: Information

---

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) provides this information regarding **House Bill (HB) 852 – *Educational Institutions – Opioid Overdose-Reversing Medications – Policy Requirements***.

### **HB 852 Summary**

Existing law requires the State Board to develop and implement a program of drug addiction and prevention education in public schools. HB 852 requires the existing program to include the mitigating effects of naloxone or other opioid overdose-reversing medications.

HB 852 stipulates that an individual acting in good faith may administer naloxone or other opioid overdose-reversing medication to a student or other person located on school property who is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid overdose. Existing statutory language limits administration of naloxone to the school nurse, school health services personnel, and other school personnel.

### **MSDE Information**

HB 852 does not distinguish between elementary and secondary schools. Existing statutes require that each institution of higher education establish a policy that addresses heroin and opioid addiction and prevention. HB 852 requires that training provided under the existing policy shall include information on the mitigating effects of naloxone or other opioid overdose reversing medication.

At institutions of higher education, HB 852 authorizes a student, a member of the institution staff, or any individual lawfully present at the institution to possess naloxone or other opioid overdose-reversing medication. These persons, responding in good faith to the overdose emergency of a student, school staff member or any individual lawfully present at a school may not be held personally liable for any act or omission in the course of responding to the emergency.

HB 852 would require MSDE to modify implementation of its program for drug addiction and prevention in public schools to include instruction on the mitigating effect of naloxone or other opioid overdose-reversing medications.

The Maryland Comprehensive Health Education Framework, in alignment with the national health education standards and written by a diverse group of content experts, includes research-based, age-appropriate topics and indicators for students to learn about heroin and opioid addiction and prevention, including information relating to the lethal effect of fentanyl. The inclusion of instruction on

the mitigating effects of naloxone or other opioid overdose-reversing medications for students in the required grade bands may not be considered age-appropriate.

MSDE respectfully requests consideration of these comments as HB 852 is discussed and deliberated.

For further information, please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne (Executive Director of Government Affairs) at 410-767-0504, or [Akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov](mailto:Akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov)