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**2026 SESSION
MARYLAND BOARD OF PHARMACY
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO: SB 562 – State Board of Pharmacy – Prescriber-Pharmacist
Agreements – Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders
COMMITTEE: Finance Committee
POSITION: Letter of Support

TITLE: SB 562 – State Board of Pharmacy – Prescriber-Pharmacist Agreements –
Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders

BILL ANALYSIS : The primary purpose of the bill is to authorize pharmacists to enter into prescriber-pharmacist agreements to treat OUD using controlled dangerous substances (“CDS”) drug therapy.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill 562, which expands clinical authority of pharmacists to treat Opioid Use Disorders (“OUD”) through collaborative prescriber-pharmacist agreements. This legislation represents a critical step forward in addressing the ongoing opioid crisis by utilizing the full clinical expertise of Maryland’s pharmacists to increase patient access to life-saving medication-assisted treatment (“MAT”)

Senate Bill 562 authorizes pharmacists to enter into agreements to treat OUD using controlled dangerous substances (“CDS”) drug therapy. By allowing pharmacists to manage these complex therapies under a physician’s protocol, the bill creates new access points for patients in both urban and rural communities where specialized addiction providers may be scarce.

The Board supports the rigorous safety standard established in this bill. Specifically, SB 562:

Mandates PDMP Utilization: Requires pharmacists to query the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (“PDMP”) before initiating or modifying any CDS therapy, ensuring comprehensive oversight of a patient’s prescriptive history.

Federal and State Compliance: Ensures that pharmacists providing OUD treatment are individually registered with the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (“DEA”) and the Maryland Office of Controlled Substances Administration (“OCSA”).

Specialized Training: Requires participating pharmacists to complete all applicable federal and state training, ensuring they are uniquely qualified to handle these sensitive protocols.

Streamlining Administrative Processes

The Board further supports the provision that repeals the requirement for authorized prescribers to submit agreements to their respective health occupation boards. Centralizing the submission and modification of these agreements within the Board of Pharmacy reduces unnecessary administrative barriers for physicians, encouraging more practitioners to enter into these collaborative, life-saving partnerships

For these reasons, the Maryland Board of Pharmacy respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 562.

For more information, please contact Julie Gaskins, Legislative Liaison, Maryland Board of Pharmacy (410) 764-4709.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.