



**BILL NO.:** HB 1162  
**TITLE:** Correctional Services – Medication–Assisted Treatment Funding  
**SPONSOR:** Delegate Alston  
**COMMITTEE:** Health  
**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**  
**DATE:** March 10, 2026

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1162 – Correctional Services – Medication–Assisted Treatment Funding. This bill would require the Special Secretary of Overdose Response to provide funding to counties for medication-assisted treatment programs.

Opioid use disorder is a chronic health condition that has great impact on the citizens of Baltimore County. The County is grateful to the Maryland Department of Health and the Moore Administration for the commitment to overdose response efforts and helping save lives.

The need for treatment and recovery resources in the County is significant considering that the County has consistently had the second highest number of fatal overdoses among counties in Maryland, with 215 lost lives in 2024 and 3,452 from 2014-2025. The rate of fatal overdoses in the County remains among the highest at 25.5 in 2024 when comparing local jurisdictions. Provisional reports for 2025 show 151 opioid intoxication deaths in Baltimore County, representing 21% of the total 736 opioid intoxication deaths in Maryland. The County responds to approximately 4,000 overdose-related EMS incidents annually since 2020. While these numbers represent the total population, the incarcerated population at the Baltimore County Detention Center experience substance use disorder at a higher rate than the general population and are also at 40 times the risk for overdose upon release.

Recognizing the need to provide Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in 2018, the County successfully applied for federal funds to start a limited program in April 2019. Initially only offering one medication, the program has been continued and expanded to offer all three FDA approved medications, in compliance with state law passed in 2019. This state-mandated program is currently budgeted at \$2,135,831 for FY26 with 89% of costs paid by the County and 11% of costs paid through a MOOR Opioid Restitution Fund grant due to expire on December 31, 2026. MOUD is currently provided to an average of 276 individuals per month in FY25, with 72% receiving buprenorphine and 28% receiving methadone.

A significant percentage of incarcerated individuals at the Baltimore County Detention Center are from Baltimore City (21%) and other areas of Maryland (10%) resulting in MOUD services provided by Baltimore County improving MOUD access to residents across the state.

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Lessons learned from implementation have served to improve the service provision and positively impact program outcomes. The program demonstrated a statistically significant decrease in participants experiencing mental health symptoms and a higher self-rated quality of life. Decreased suicide attempts were also observed as compared to the general BCDC population (0 versus 1.5 per 1,000). Program participants experienced a significantly lower rate for use of force (7 per 1,000) as compared to the general population at BCDC (73 per 1,000) as well as showing considerable decrease as compared with prior to being medicated (118 per 1,000). Finally, program participants saw a decreasing re-arrest rate across time from 14% of participants re-arrested in FY19 to 0 in FY21. In spite of the successes, there were three fatal overdoses among program participants after release. Returning individuals are uniquely vulnerable, particularly if they suffer from opioid use disorder and they have a critical need for supportive re-entry services, including MOUD.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 1162 from the House Health Committee. For more information, contact State Legislative Officer, Kayenda Twesigye at [ktwesigye@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:ktwesigye@baltimorecountymd.gov)