



**2026 SESSION  
POSITION PAPER**

**BILL:** HB 1162 – Correctional Services - Medication-Assisted Treatment Funding  
**COMMITTEE:** House – Health Committee  
**POSITION:** Letter of Support with Amendments  
**BILL ANALYSIS:** HB 1162 would require the Special Secretary of Opioid Response to expand the authorized uses of the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF) and to provide funding to counties to support medication-assisted treatment (MAT) programs in detention centers, and among other changes.

**POSITION RATIONALE:** The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) submits a Letter of Support with Amendments for HB 1162. The state’s Health Officers **strongly support** efforts to engage incarcerated individuals in treatment for substance use disorder that includes medication therapy. Evidence has shown that those who receive medication in support of their recovery efforts are much less likely to relapse than those who only have access to individual and/or group therapy sessions. Many of our LHDs work with their detention centers in some fashion on MAT efforts now.

MACHO also supports efforts to ensure that local detention centers have financial support for medication therapy. However, we are concerned that the bill as written would result in exclusive use of Opioid Restitution Funds to support MAT in detention centers. Given that the bill contains no limitation on the total funding allocated, this would quickly deplete the fund. The ORF provides critical support to several key efforts related to the overdose epidemic, including programming that directly impacts local health departments (LHDs). *This programming would be at risk under this bill as currently constructed and LHDs seek assurance their funding will not be impacted.*

There is an opportunity to improve the coordination of funding mechanisms to support this important work of our detention center partners. We propose that the bill language be amended to remove current language regarding use of ORF funding for implementation of MAT programs. **We recommend amendment of the bill to require the establishment of a workgroup to develop viable, long-term funding mechanisms to support MAT in detention centers, reduce administrative burden, and ensure the success and sustainability of this critical program.** MACHO would welcome the opportunity to provide the public health expertise to that work moving forward.

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers submits this Letter of Support with Amendment for HB 1162. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at [rmaiora1@jhu.edu](mailto:rmaiora1@jhu.edu) or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*