

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor



DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS OF HOUSE BILL 1162

March 10, 2026

DOROTHY J. LENNIG, GOCPP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) advises the Governor on criminal justice policy, coordinates across public safety and behavioral health agencies, and administers statewide investments to advance public safety and improve outcomes for justice-involved individuals.

Pursuant to §9–603 of the Correctional Services Article, GOCPP is required to monitor and report annually on the implementation of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in local correctional facilities. Since the enactment, GOCPP has worked in close partnership with local detention centers to support compliance and strengthen implementation.

As written, HB 1162 requires counties to demonstrate that they attempted to obtain at least one grant to support MAT from either the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) or GOCPP. If a county applies for a grant and does not receive funding from MDH or GOCPP, the bill would require the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF) to cover the full cost of the county's MAT program. In effect, this structure positions the ORF as the default funding source when other grant opportunities are not awarded.

While GOCPP strongly supports ensuring that local correctional facilities have sustainable resources to meet the statutory standard of care, other State and federal funding streams are available to supplement this work, and numerous critical initiatives rely on the ORF for support. Maintaining flexibility within the ORF is essential to ensuring it can address the broad range of prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts contemplated in settlement agreements. Therefore, GOCPP recommends amending HB 1162 to remove all references to the ORF.

In support of the Maryland Office of Overdose Response's (MOOR) efforts to steward ORF resources responsibly and strategically, GOCPP proposes an amendment requiring MDH, MOOR, GOCPP, the Maryland Association of Counties, and the Maryland Correctional Administrators Association to convene a workgroup, staffed by MOOR, to address the fundamental concerns around process and coordination for MAT funding available from the state. This workgroup would develop a standardized implementation model, recommend an equitable and sustainable grant structure, and establish guidance on relative funding levels. A coordinated approach will promote fiscal accountability, reduce duplication of funding, and ensure consistent, high-quality MAT services across jurisdictions.

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy urges the House Health Committee to amend HB 1162 and report favorably.

100 Community Pl. • Crownsville, MD 21032

Tel: 410-697-9338 • Fax: 410-558-6697 • Toll Free: 1-877-687-9004 • TTY Users: Call via Maryland Relay

<http://goccp.maryland.gov/>