

SENATE BILL 427

J1
SB 618/23 – FIN

4r1942
CF 4r1941

By: **Senators Hettleman, M. Washington, Carter, Benson, Feldman, and Lewis Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a community–based organization, with the approval of the
4 Maryland Department of Health, to establish an Overdose and Infectious Disease
5 Prevention Services Program; authorizing a Program to bill the insurance carrier of
6 an individual who uses the services of the Program for the cost of covered services,
7 accept donations, grants, and other financial assistance, apply for certain grants,
8 coordinate with certain programs or organizations, and use mobile facilities;
9 prohibiting the location of a Program in certain areas; prohibiting certain persons,
10 under certain circumstances, from being subject to arrest, prosecution, or certain
11 penalties or from being denied any right or privilege for involvement in the operation
12 or use of services of a Program; and generally relating to an Overdose and Infectious
13 Disease Prevention Services Program.

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Health – General
16 Section 24–2401 through 24–2406 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 24.
17 Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program”
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2023 Replacement Volume)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Health – General**

23 **SUBTITLE 24. OVERDOSE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION SERVICES**
24 **PROGRAM.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **24-2401.**

2 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
3 INDICATED.

4 (B) (1) "COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION" MEANS A PUBLIC OR
5 PRIVATE ORGANIZATION THAT:

6 (I) IS REPRESENTATIVE OF A COMMUNITY OR SIGNIFICANT
7 SEGMENTS OF A COMMUNITY; AND

8 (II) PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH, OR SOCIAL SERVICES
9 TO INDIVIDUALS IN THE COMMUNITY.

10 (2) "COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION" INCLUDES:

11 (I) A HOSPITAL;

12 (II) A CLINIC;

13 (III) A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT CENTER;

14 (IV) A MEDICAL OFFICE;

15 (V) A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER;

16 (VI) A MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY;

17 (VII) A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT; AND

18 (VIII) A FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION.

19 (C) "PROGRAM" MEANS AN OVERDOSE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE
20 PREVENTION SERVICES PROGRAM.

21 **24-2402.**

22 (A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A COMMUNITY-BASED
23 ORGANIZATION MAY ESTABLISH AN OVERDOSE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE
24 PREVENTION SERVICES PROGRAM WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT, IN
25 CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

26 (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT MAY APPROVE NOT MORE THAN SIX
27 PROGRAMS, WITH EACH PROGRAM OPERATING AT A SINGLE LOCATION IN AN AREA

1 WITH A HIGH INCIDENCE OF DRUG USE.

2 (2) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE PROGRAMS APPROVED BY
3 THE DEPARTMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

4 (I) TWO PROGRAMS LOCATED IN URBAN AREAS OF THE STATE;

5 (II) TWO PROGRAMS LOCATED IN SUBURBAN AREAS OF THE
6 STATE; AND

7 (III) TWO PROGRAMS LOCATED IN RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE.

8 (C) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL HEALTH
9 DEPARTMENT, SHALL MAKE ITS DETERMINATION OF WHETHER TO APPROVE AN
10 APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER THIS SECTION BASED ON THE ABILITY OF THE
11 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF §§
12 24-2403, 24-2404, AND 24-2405 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

13 (D) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL HEALTH
14 DEPARTMENT, SHALL:

15 (1) APPROVE OR DENY AN APPLICATION OF A COMMUNITY-BASED
16 ORGANIZATION WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER THE DAY ON WHICH THE APPLICATION IS
17 RECEIVED; AND

18 (2) PROVIDE A WRITTEN EXPLANATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S
19 DETERMINATION TO THE COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.

20 24-2403.

21 (A) A PROGRAM SHALL:

22 (1) PROVIDE A LOCATION SUPERVISED BY HEALTH CARE
23 PROFESSIONALS OR OTHER TRAINED STAFF WHERE DRUG USERS CAN CONSUME
24 PREOBTAINED DRUGS;

25 (2) PROVIDE STERILE SUPPLIES FOR PERSONAL DRUG
26 ADMINISTRATION, COLLECT USED SUPPLIES, AND PROVIDE APPROPRIATE
27 DISPOSAL SERVICES OF USED SUPPLIES;

28 (3) ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT SAFE DRUG USE PRACTICES;

29 (4) ADMINISTER FIRST AID, IF NEEDED, MONITOR PARTICIPANTS FOR

1 POTENTIAL OVERDOSE, AND ADMINISTER RESCUE MEDICATIONS, INCLUDING
2 NALOXONE;

3 (5) PROVIDE ACCESS OR REFERRALS TO SERVICES, INCLUDING:

4 (I) SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER COUNSELING AND TREATMENT
5 SERVICES;

6 (II) TESTING FOR HIV, VIRAL HEPATITIS, AND SEXUALLY
7 TRANSMITTED DISEASES;

8 (III) REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION AND SERVICES; AND

9 (IV) WOUND CARE;

10 (6) EDUCATE PARTICIPANTS ON THE RISKS OF CONTRACTING HIV
11 AND VIRAL HEPATITIS;

12 (7) PROVIDE OVERDOSE PREVENTION EDUCATION AND ACCESS TO
13 OR REFERRALS TO OBTAIN NALOXONE;

14 (8) EDUCATE PARTICIPANTS REGARDING PROPER DISPOSAL OF
15 HYPODERMIC NEEDLES AND SYRINGES;

16 (9) PROVIDE REASONABLE AND ADEQUATE SECURITY OF THE
17 PROGRAM SITE AND EQUIPMENT;

18 (10) ESTABLISH A METHOD OF IDENTIFYING PROGRAM STAFF
19 MEMBERS WHO ARE AUTHORIZED TO ACCESS DRUG ADMINISTRATION SUPPLIES AND
20 PROGRAM RECORDS; AND

21 (11) TRAIN STAFF MEMBERS TO DELIVER SERVICES OFFERED BY THE
22 PROGRAM.

23 (B) A PROGRAM MAY:

24 (1) WITH THE CONSENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL, BILL THE INSURANCE
25 CARRIER OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO USES THE SERVICES OF THE PROGRAM FOR THE
26 COST OF COVERED SERVICES;

27 (2) ACCEPT DONATIONS, GRANTS, OR OTHER FINANCIAL
28 ASSISTANCE;

1 **(3) APPLY FOR GRANTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR ANY NONPROFIT**
2 **OR OTHER PRIVATE ORGANIZATION;**

3 **(4) COORDINATE WITH ANY SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION AND**
4 **OUTREACH PROGRAM, SYRINGE SERVICES PROGRAM, OR COMMUNITY-BASED**
5 **ORGANIZATION; AND**

6 **(5) USE A MOBILE FACILITY TO OPERATE AND PROVIDE SERVICES.**

7 **(C) A PROGRAM MAY NOT BE LOCATED IN AN AREA THAT IS ZONED FOR**
8 **RESIDENTIAL USES.**

9 **24-2404.**

10 **(A) THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**
11 **PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY NOT BE SUBJECT TO ARREST, PROSECUTION,**
12 **OR ANY CIVIL OR ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY, INCLUDING A CIVIL PENALTY OR**
13 **DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY A PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARD, OR BE DENIED ANY**
14 **RIGHT OR PRIVILEGE FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE OPERATION OR USE OF SERVICES**
15 **OF THE PROGRAM:**

16 **(1) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO USES SERVICES OF A PROGRAM;**

17 **(2) A STAFF MEMBER OF A PROGRAM, INCLUDING A HEALTH CARE**
18 **PROFESSIONAL, A MANAGER, AN EMPLOYEE, OR A VOLUNTEER; OR**

19 **(3) A PROPERTY OWNER WHO OWNS THE FACILITY AT WHICH A**
20 **PROGRAM IS LOCATED AND OPERATES.**

21 **(B) A PROPERTY OWNER, A MANAGER, AN EMPLOYEE, A VOLUNTEER, OR AN**
22 **INDIVIDUAL USING THE SERVICES OF A PROGRAM AND ACTING IN ACCORDANCE**
23 **WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY NOT BE SUBJECT UNDER STATE OR**
24 **LOCAL LAW TO THE SEIZURE OR FORFEITURE OF ANY REAL OR PERSONAL**
25 **PROPERTY USED IN CONNECTION WITH A PROGRAM.**

26 **24-2405.**

27 **NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF § 24-2404 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A**
28 **PROPERTY OWNER, A MANAGER, AN EMPLOYEE, A VOLUNTEER, OR AN INDIVIDUAL**
29 **USING THE SERVICES OF A PROGRAM IS NOT IMMUNE FROM CRIMINAL**
30 **PROSECUTION FOR ANY ACTIVITIES NOT AUTHORIZED OR APPROVED BY THE**
31 **PROGRAM.**

1 **24-2406.**

2 **ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, A PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER**
3 **THIS SUBTITLE SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**
4 **2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**
5 **AND THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE A REPORT**
6 **THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

7 **(1) THE NUMBER OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND THE NUMBER OF**
8 **TIMES A PARTICIPANT USED THE PROGRAM'S SERVICES;**

9 **(2) AGGREGATE INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEMOGRAPHIC**
10 **PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS;**

11 **(3) THE NUMBER OF:**

12 **(I) ITEMS DISTRIBUTED FOR DRUG ADMINISTRATION FOR USE**
13 **ON-SITE, INCLUDING HYPODERMIC NEEDLES AND SYRINGES; AND**

14 **(II) OVERDOSES EXPERIENCED ON-SITE AND OVERDOSES**
15 **REVERSED ON-SITE;**

16 **(4) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVED OVERDOSE CARE**
17 **AND THE TYPE AND NUMBER OF RESCUE DRUGS USED;**

18 **(5) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS REFERRED BY THE PROGRAM TO**
19 **OTHER SERVICES AND THE TYPE OF SERVICE TO WHICH THE INDIVIDUALS WERE**
20 **REFERRED; AND**

21 **(6) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES**
22 **IS NECESSARY FOR ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM.**

23 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect July
24 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June 30, 2028,
25 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
26 of no further force and effect.