

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 552 (Delegate Taveras, *et al.*)

Appropriations and Health and
Government Operations

Higher Education - Drug Detection Products - Distribution and Report

This bill requires each institution of higher education to provide, at no charge to students, drug detection products that allow an individual to test a drug for the presence of fentanyl. Drug detection products must be made available in student health centers, libraries, and bathrooms. The bill requires each institution of higher education to report to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) on the quantity of drug detection products distributed by the institution. The bill also makes a technical change to repeal an expired reporting requirement. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Higher education expenditures for public four-year institutions and Baltimore City Community College increase, likely minimally, to provide disposable drug detection products. Institutions of higher education can report drug detection product usage to MHEC with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Local community college expenditures increase, likely minimally, to provide disposable drug detection products. Community colleges can report drug detection product usage to MHEC with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Institution of Higher Education

“Institution of higher education” is defined as an institution of postsecondary education that generally limits enrollment to graduates of secondary schools and awards degrees at either the associate, baccalaureate, or graduate level. It includes public, private nonprofit, and for-profit institutions.

Institutions of Higher Education – Policy on Heroin and Opioid Addiction and Prevention and Possession of Naloxone or Other Opioid Overdose-reversing Medication

Under Chapters 573 and 574 of 2017, each institution of higher education that receives State funding must establish a policy on heroin and opioid addiction and prevention that requires (1) each institution to require incoming full-time students to participate in in-person awareness training, unless in-person training is impracticable, in which case such training must be conducted electronically; (2) each institution to provide incoming part-time students with educational resources on heroin and opioid addiction and prevention; (3) each institution to obtain and store naloxone or another overdose-reversing medication; and (4) training for campus police or other designated personnel on symptom recognition, medication administration procedures, and follow-up emergency procedures. Requirements relating to awareness training for incoming full-time students and obtaining and storing naloxone or another overdose-reversing medication do not apply to (1) the University of Maryland Global Campus; (2) the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science; or (3) an off-campus location of an institution of higher education.

Each institution of higher education must submit a report by October 1 of each year on each incident that required the use of naloxone or another overdose-reversing medication to MHEC.

State/Local Expenditures: Exact costs depend on the number of tests distributed, which is likely related to the size of the student population at each institution of higher education and the cost of fentanyl test strips acquired. However, given the low cost of fentanyl test strips, as little as one to three dollars per test, the overall cost is likely minimal. However, if institutions distribute a high volume of test strips, total expenditures may be more significant.

Some institutions of higher education report that providing tests in bathrooms may require additional expenditures to retrofit dispensers. To the extent that the bill requires drug detection products be provided in *all* bathrooms, the University of Maryland, College Park

Campus advises that the university's Facilities Management and Department of Residential Life could face one-time costs of up to \$175,000 to install dispensers in restrooms across campus and in residence hall bathrooms.

Additional Comments: Likewise, as advised by the Maryland Independent College and University Association, expenditures for private nonprofit institutions of higher education increase to provide disposable drug detection products. While costs are likely minimal, they may become significant if demand is high.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission; Baltimore City Community College; University System of Maryland; St. Mary's College of Maryland; Maryland Independent College and University Association; Department of Legislative Services

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