



**2022 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL: SB 394 – Statewide Targeted Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act of 2022
COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee
POSITION: Letter of Support As Amended
BILL ANALYSIS: SB 394 authorizes certain providers to dispense naloxone to individuals who received treatment for a nonfatal drug overdose or were evaluated by a crisis evaluation team and requires certain community services programs, to dispense naloxone to certain individuals free of charge under certain circumstances, and other related activities.

POSITION RATIONALE: The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) supports the amended version of SB 394 and its goal of reducing overdose deaths in Maryland.

After discussions with leadership of the Opioid Operations Command Center addressing funding barriers, the Governor’s Office has submitted amendments allaying local health departments’ concerns. With the following modification to the original bill language, the state’s Health Officers are in support of this worthwhile bill.

On page 4, after line 10, insert:
"13-3103.

(D)(1) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PURCHASE AND PROVIDE NALOXONE, AT NO COST, TO THOSE PROVIDERS REQUIRED IN SECTIONS 8- 408 AND 19–310.3 OF THIS ARTICLE TO DISPENSE AND MAKE AVAILABLE NALOXONE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEWIDE TARGETED OVERDOSE PREVENTION ACT OF 2022.

(2) AN ENTITY REQUIRED IN SECTIONS 8-408 AND 19–310.3 OF THIS ARTICLE TO DISPENSE AND MAKE AVAILABLE NALOXONE IS ONLY SUBJECT TO PROVIDING NALOXONE AS LONG AS NALOXONE IS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT."

The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) cites studies linking increases in community access to naloxone with decreases in overdose deaths. Greater availability of naloxone is not associated with an increase in opioid use.¹ In a position statement, ASAM encourages the elimination of barriers to distribution of naloxone to those at risk of overdose and people close to them. SB 394 furthers the goal of reducing fatal opioid overdoses.

2020 and 2021 produced the highest numbers of overdose deaths in state history. SB 394 will strengthen one important component of a multi-layered strategy to curb potentially preventable fatalities.

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers submits this letter of support as amended for SB 394. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at rmaiora1@jhu.edu or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*

¹<https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/public-policy-statements/use-of-naloxone-for-the-prevention-of-opioid-overdose-deaths-final.pdf>