



State of Maryland

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HB 408 – Statewide Targeted Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act of 2022

MIEMSS Position: Support

Bill Summary: HB 408 expands targeted naloxone distribution to individuals at highest risk of overdose. HB 408 will: 1) permit EMS Clinicians to dispense naloxone to individuals who received treatment for a nonfatal overdose or who was evaluated by a crisis evaluation team; 2) permit community services programs and other entities to dispense naloxone under protocol to individuals with a substance use disorder or at risk of a drug overdose; and 3) protect businesses and business owners for acts or omissions when they in good faith make naloxone available to business patrons.

Rationale:

- Increasing naloxone access is an effective strategy to reduce opioid overdose deaths.
- To supplement community naloxone training and distribution access points, Maryland implemented the “EMS Naloxone Leave Behind” Program in 2017 where EMS may “leave behind” naloxone kits on the scene of an overdose. The cost of the naloxone is borne by the health department.
- Currently, 19 EMS jurisdictions participate in the Leave Behind Program in the following counties / cities:

Annapolis	Caroline	Harford	Queen Anne’s
Allegany	Cecil	Howard	St. Mary’s
Anne Arundel	Charles	Montgomery	Talbot
Baltimore City	Dorchester	Ocean City	Washington
Baltimore County	Frederick	Prince George’s	

- Feedback regarding the EMS Naloxone Leave Behind Program from participating EMS jurisdictions has been very positive. Howard County EMS personnel published a paper about the program, “Best Practices for a Novel EMS-Based Naloxone Leave Behind Program.” See <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32420791/>.
- HB 408 creates the statutory authority for the EMS Naloxone Leave Behind program, remedying a structural issue. Currently, the program functions under a standing order issued by the Maryland Department of Health because EMS distribution of naloxone in this manner would have otherwise been considered “dispensing.” HB 408 will provide a firm statutory foundation for the EMS Naloxone Leave Behind Program.
- HB 408 provides an opportunity to expand naloxone access for individuals at high risk for future overdoses and to provide a firm statutory foundation to continue effective programs that currently exist.

MIEMSS Supports HB 408 and Urges a Favorable Report