

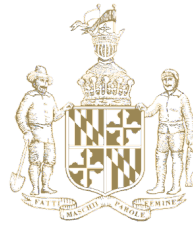
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Ways and Means Committee

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Education

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB1121: Opioids and Opioid Overdose Reversal Drugs - Information

House Health and Government Operations Committee

Friday, March 1, 2024 1:00PM

Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

As Maryland continues to face the opioid overdose epidemic, it is critical that those who are prescribed opioids are well informed on the risks of overdoses and the benefits of opioid overdose reversal drugs.

HB1121 would require a licensed health care provider who prescribes or dispenses an opioid to inform the patient on overdose prevention, and the availability and use of an opioid antagonist for the complete or partial reversal of an opioid-induced respiratory depression. Conspicuously placed signage relaying the above information would satisfy the provisions under this bill.

This potentially life-saving measure would not be burdensome for pharmacists to comply with, has no fiscal note, and the only cost would be if the pharmacy chooses to comply through conspicuously placed signage. This cost would be a minimal, one-time purchase to procure the sign.

Ensuring that patients across the State are well informed, particularly after being prescribed an opioid, is a low-cost, high-impact step towards reducing the deaths in our communities as a result of overdoses.

I urge the committee to give a favorable report on HB1121.