

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.  
*County Executive*



JENNIFER AIOSA  
*Director of Government Affairs*

AMANDA KONTZ CARR  
*Legislative Officer*

WILLIAM J. THORNE  
*Legislative Associate*

**BILL NO.:**           **HB 1031**

**TITLE:**             Correctional Services – Medication-Assisted Treatment

**SPONSOR:**         Delegate Lewis

**COMMITTEE:**      Judiciary

**POSITION:**        **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

**DATE:**             March 7, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** House Bill 1031 – Correctional Services – Medication-Assisted Treatment. This legislation would provide formulaic grant funding to assist local detention centers with operating their Medication Assisted Treatment programs.

Counties across the State of Maryland desperately need this funding due to the disproportionate number of incarcerated individuals who depend on medication-assisted treatment. However, HB 1031 removes the requirement for local corrections facilities to provide all three FDA approved medications for opioid use disorder. The legislation should be amended to remove this change due to the fact that provision of medications for a chronic health condition, such as opioid use disorder, is an evidence-based practice. Research demonstrates that providing medications for opioid use disorder in corrections settings improves treatment and recovery outcomes for returning individuals and also reduces fatal and nonfatal overdoses. Incarcerated individuals are otherwise at significant increased risk (40-120 times, depending on the location) of overdose upon release. Every opioid overdose death is the tragic loss of a loved one. Baltimore County hopes to continue collaborating with the State of Maryland and community partners to combat this deadly epidemic.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on HB 1031 from the House Judiciary Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at [jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov).