



House Bill 88

Public Health – Prescription Drug Monitoring Program - Revisions

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
with AMENDMENTS

To: Health and Government Operations Committee

Date: January 30, 2018

From: Natasha Mehu

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 88 **with AMENDMENTS**. This bill would strengthen provisions of Maryland’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), improving its ability to identify and deter prescription drug abuse and diversion as the state continues to struggle with an opioid crisis.

HB 88 requires that the PDMP review prescription monitoring data for indications of misuse or abuse, and for possible violations of law or breach of professional conduct. It also sets specific factors that must be considered for determining these violations, as well as when and how the violations are to be reported. These changes bolster the effectiveness of the program by helping to ensure important data is not overlooked, violations are appropriately flagged, providers are properly educated, and that notice is provided to the proper authorities in a timely manner.

Counties believe the PDMP can be further improved by expanding PDMP access to County Health Officers and the Health Commissioner for Baltimore City. These officers play a significant role in addressing the opioid crisis in each of Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions. Access to PDMP data would enable them to share vital information and best practices with identified prescribers, and increase awareness and improve intervention efforts in cases of patients who may be doctor shopping.

For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE with AMENDMENTS** report on HB 88.

Amendment

On page 4 of the bill, after line 27, insert:

(11) ON APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF A COUNTY OR THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER FOR THE CITY OF BALTIMORE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PURPOSES; OR