



House Bill 359

Health – Reporting of Overdose Information

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
with AMENDMENTS

To: Health & Government Operations Committee

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From: Natasha Mehu

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 359 **with AMENDMENTS**. The bill empowers first responders to report important overdose data that would help efforts to accurately track and effectively tackle the opioid crisis. To the extent practicable, requiring rather than authorizing reporting could improve those efforts.

As Maryland continues to grapple with the opioid crisis, it is vital that local governments and first responders have timely and accurate information regarding overdoses. Secure online platforms that provide the ability to track overdoses across jurisdictional lines are valuable tools for pinpointing spikes in overdoses and observing patterns of use and distribution. This information would help governments efficiently manage the use of their resources to address the threats to public health and public safety.

HB 359 authorizes emergency medical service providers and law enforcement officers who have either treated and released or transported an individual who has overdosed or is suspected of overdosing, to report such incidents to any secure state, local, or federal government information technology platform that helps track and map the opioid crisis. The bill specifies the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Overdose Detection Mapping Application as one such platform. It also outlines what information must be included in the report and sets a time frame for submitting the information.

As overdose data and information sharing are key components to solving this crisis, counties believe the information must be reported through secure platforms to the extent that is practicable to do so. For these reasons MACo requests a **FAVORABLE with AMENDMENTS** report on HB 359.