



## Senate Bill 195

### *Public Health - Prescription Drug Monitoring Program - Revisions*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Health and Government Operations Committee

Date: March 20, 2019

From: Natasha Mehu

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 195. This bill would strengthen provisions of Maryland's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), improving its ability to identify, deter, and report prescription drug abuse and diversion as the state continues to struggle with an opioid crisis.

SB 195 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 may be reported to the Office of Controlled Substances Administration for further investigation and, if warranted, the appropriate licensing entity for possible disciplinary action. As amended, it includes additional notification safeguards and requires the Advisory Board on Prescription Drug Monitoring to track outreach made to providers and referrals made to the Office for possible violations of law or breach of professional conduct.

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. For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 195.