



## Senate Bill 757

### *Public Health – Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – Required Disclosures*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

Date: April 2, 2015

To: Health and Government Operations Committee

From: Natasha Mehu

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 757. Opioid-related deaths and usage continue to rise in epidemic proportions. The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) helps to identify and prevent prescription drug abuse and diversion that can lead to overdose or crimes.

SB 757 alters the PDMP to broaden data sharing with appropriate stakeholders. The bill requires the disclosure of prescription monitoring to certain additional entities on approval by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene for the purpose of a bona fide individual case review. These additional entities include Local Drug Overdose Fatality Review Teams, Local Child Fatality Review Teams and a medical review committee appointed by or established by a local health department. This data sharing is important to assist in identifying prescription drug abuse and unlawful prescription drug diversion.

As part of its 2015 legislative initiatives, MACo advocates for comprehensive legislation and budget initiatives to address the growing opioid problem confronting each county and the unique needs of their communities. The changes made to the PDMP will facilitate data sharing with invested local stakeholders to help identify and stop prescription drug abuse. For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 757.