

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT COUNCIL
April 24, 2017 Meeting

Opioid-Response/Related Legislation, 2017 General Assembly Session

More information about all bills can be found at <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>¹

The Prescriber Limits Act of 2017 (HB 1432)

- Pain Management Prescriptions must be based on clinical guidelines – lowest effective dosage of an opioid and a quantity that is no greater than the quantity needed for the expected duration of pain severe enough to require an opioid (except for (1) – substance related disorders; (2) pain associated with a cancer diagnosis; (3) end of life, hospice or palliative care; and (4) chronic pain).

Heroin and Opioid Education and Community Action Act of 2017 (Start Talking Maryland Act) (HB 1082)

- Education programs on heroin and opioid addiction
- Administration of Naloxone on school property
- Higher education courses on drug addiction treatment

Heroin and Opioid Prevention Effort (HOPE) and Treatment Act of 2017 (HB1329/SB967)

- Increase funding for community behavioral health services (Keep the Door Open Act)
- Establish crisis treatment centers
- Expand statewide 24/7 crisis hotline
- Expand drug fatality review teams to non-fatal cases
- Collect and disseminate information about opioid use disorder
- Eliminates certificate requirement for individuals to receive Naloxone
- Hospital protocols for discharging overdose patients
- Assessment of drug court programs
- Increasing substance use disorder treatment in jails and prisons

¹ Originally prepared by Anna K. Barefoot, Esq., Behavioral Health Administration, Briefing for the Opioid Operational Command Center, April 17, 2017

Distribution of Controlled Dangerous Substances - Fentanyl (SB 539)

- Increased penalties for distributing/possessing fentanyl or a mixture containing heroin and fentanyl (10 year sentence max and consecutive to any other sentence).

Recovery Residence Residential Rights Protection Act (HB 869)

- Information regarding certified programs and treatment to individuals entering Recovery Residences

Prior Authorization for Drug Products to Treat an Opioid Use Disorder (HB 887)

- Prohibition of prior authorization insurance requirement for opioid treatment medications

Health Care Services Delivered Through Telehealth - Coverage (HB 983)

- Insurers must provide coverage for appropriately delivered telehealth services
- Counseling for Substance Use Disorder is one of the services that may be delivered through telehealth services

Coverage Requirements for Behavioral Health Disorders - Modifications (HB 1127/SB 968)

- Health benefit plans must include some substance use disorder treatments:
 - Inpatient treatment including treatment at a residential treatment center
- Outpatient treatment including intensive outpatient treatment