



House Bill 1162

Correctional Services – Medication–Assisted Treatment Funding

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Health and Government, Labor, and
Election Committees

Date: March 10, 2026

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1162. This bill clarifies State procedures and viable funding sources for medication-assisted treatment in local detention centers. It reflects a careful balance to resolve a prolonged and vexing issue and will help the State reach compliance with at least one of several missed obligations within local detention centers.

Providing services for incarcerated individuals with an opioid use disorder requires resources and efficiency. Counties and local detention center wardens agree these services deserve priority in funding and delivery, particularly as they serve such a vulnerable population. State and county stakeholders have labored for seven years to properly support sustainable program funding, but one consensus has been resoundingly clear – the required State support has not been effectively provided. The Office of the Attorney General issued a formal letter of advice clarifying that this persistent lack of funding from the State converts the statutory mandate to a nonbinding option, which was not the intent of the General Assembly and the many stakeholders in these programs' success.

Local governments believe – after seven years of uncertainty from State agencies – the General Assembly needs to address the funding challenges that have hindered implementation and State compliance. MACo has specifically requested this bill and worked with agency stakeholders early, often, and tirelessly to bring about some resolution.

In effect, HB 1162 requires counties, during their local budgeting process, to document the needed annual funding for these programs, and submit that assessment to the responsible state agency. The coordinating state agencies will then have the ability to provide funding from whichever pool of grants they deem appropriate. If the State chooses on their end to leave a gap in the funding requirement after the distribution of a grant, then, as outlined in the bill, the opioid restitution fund would cover the difference, but only if that is the intention of the State.

HB 1162 will finally deliver on the long-sought agreement to support critical services to Maryland's incarcerated populations. This bill will connect current mandates to specified agencies and viable funding sources through the use of opioid settlement funds, in conjunction with appropriated funds and eligible grants. The changes will bring long-awaited clarity and compliance for resources to serve these vulnerable populations. For this reason, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on **HB 1162**.