



Maryland
Hospital Association

Senate Bill 342 - Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – Program Evaluation
Position: *Support with amendment*

Bill Summary

Senate Bill 342 would require the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to provide prescription monitoring data to authorized users, rather than the authorized administrator, of another state's prescription drug monitoring program; repeal the termination date of the program; repeal the requirement that the Department of Legislative Services conduct a certain evaluation of the program under the Maryland Program Evaluation Act; and more.

MHA Position

Under Maryland's new Total Cost of Care agreement with the federal government, Maryland's hospitals are working to lower costs and improve population health. In addition to treating illness and injury, hospitals are reaching out beyond their four walls to keep people well and improve the health of the communities they serve. The result: hospitals are taking care of the whole person, empowering patients and families, coordinating care among different providers, and addressing social factors, such as the behavioral health epidemic, that influence people's health.

Maryland's hospitals therefore fully support and are engaged with Maryland's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). In 2016 we supported legislation mandating registration and query of the PDMP, and since then the Maryland Hospital Association has bolstered this effort by disseminating information to all of Maryland's hospitals through jointly sponsored webinars and letters of information. The program's success is more important than ever as a tool in helping address the state's behavioral health crisis.

We would urge that language authorizing a provider's professional board to issue a subpoena without a quorum be removed. The professional board plays a critical role in the determination of a provider's culpability in the case of a misuse or abuse of opioids, and only a fully represented board should be able to make such critical decisions in these cases.

The rate of opioid prescribing has fallen in Maryland's hospitals, and the PDMP is an important safeguard to the continuation of our work with the state to decrease the impact of opioids as a factor in the behavioral health crisis.

For these reasons, we urge a *favorable* report, with the amendment cited.