



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700  
County Council

## **POSITION STATEMENT**

### **HB 1131**

Delegates Vogel and  
Tomlinson

Public Health – Buprenorphine – Training Grant  
Program and Workgroup

### **POSITION:**

### **SUPPORT**

**HB 1131 – Public Health – Buprenorphine – Training Grant Program and Workgroup** aims to establish the Buprenorphine Training Grant Program to assist counties, including Prince George's County, with offsetting the cost of training paramedics to administer buprenorphine. The program will be funded through the Opioid Restitution Fund, with the Governor required to allocate at least \$50,000 annually to support this initiative. The legislation allows counties to apply for grants to train paramedics, increasing access to buprenorphine services in the state.

The Prince George's County Council strongly supports HB 1131, as this critical legislation will expand access to life-saving medication-assisted treatment by offsetting the cost of training paramedics to administer buprenorphine. The opioid crisis continues to disproportionately affect communities across Maryland, including Prince George's County, where increasing access to evidence-based treatment is a public health priority. This bill establishes the Buprenorphine Training Grant Program, allowing counties to apply for funding through the Opioid Restitution Fund, ensuring that frontline responders are equipped with the necessary training to provide immediate intervention for individuals experiencing opioid withdrawal.

In Prince George's County, opioid-related overdoses remain a pressing issue, and immediate access to treatment can be the difference between life and death. HB 1131 will help expand the reach of paramedics in administering buprenorphine, a proven medication-assisted treatment that can stabilize individuals in crisis and provide a bridge to long-term recovery. By funding this program through the Opioid Restitution Fund, the state is reinvesting settlement dollars into direct community impact, ensuring that local jurisdictions have the resources needed to combat the ongoing epidemic.

This bill also aligns with best practices at the state and national levels, where jurisdictions have implemented first-responder buprenorphine programs with positive results. States like Rhode Island and Pennsylvania have successfully integrated buprenorphine administration into emergency medical response protocols, leading to higher rates of treatment engagement and decreased overdose-related hospitalizations. By passing HB 1131, Maryland will follow this evidence-based approach, improving outcomes for those affected by opioid use disorder.

## **Prince George's County Council Position Statement**

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For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council SUPPORTS HB 1131 and respectfully requests the Committee's favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Evans & Associates  
On behalf of Prince George's County Council