





June 26, 2025

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

TO: Colette R. Gresham, Esq.  
Interim Council Administrator

Karen Zavakos  
Associate Council Administrator

THRU: Josh Hamlin   
Director of Budget and Policy Analysis

FROM: David Noto   
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement  
CR-076-2025 PGCPs Opioid Emergency Readiness Audit

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**CR-076-2025** (*Proposed by:* Council Member Hawkins)

Assigned to the Education and Workforce Development (EWD) Committee

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A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE READINESS OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN A POTENTIAL OVERDOSE EMERGENCY for the purpose of calling on the Prince George's County Board of Education to initiate an audit in conjunction with the Prince George's County Public Schools to ensure compliance with State and Local mandated overdose-reversing medication requirements in schools.

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## **Fiscal Summary**

### **Direct Impact**

*Expenditures:* No anticipated impact on expenditures. The state has set aside money for both the provision of naloxone and training in administering naloxone in the event of an opioid overdose at schools.

*Revenues:* no anticipated impact on revenues.

### **Indirect Impact**

Likely favorable.

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### **Legislative Summary:**

CR-076-2025,<sup>1</sup> was introduced by Council Member Hawkins, and is also sponsored by Council Members Watson, Burroughs, Blegay, Olson, Harrison, Dernoga, Ivey, and Adams-Stafford. It was introduced on June 17, 2025, and referred to the Education and Workforce Development Committee. This resolution calls on the Prince George's County Board of Education (BOE) and Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) to initiate an audit of all public schools to ensure that schools are ready for a potential overdosing emergency. State laws require all public schools to have opioid overdose medication readily available and have personnel trained and ready to administer that medication in an emergency. CR-076-2025 suggests that BOE begin their audit at the start of the next school year and conclude in January 2026. CR-076-2025 recommends that the BOE notify the Council of any schools found to be out of compliance with the state law and Board policy and immediately begin rectifying those deficiencies.

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### **Current Law/Background:**

#### *State Law:*

Education Article § 7-426.5 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, originally passed as the Heroin and Opioid Education and Community Action Act of 2017 (Start Talking Maryland Act), required each local board of education to establish a policy requiring each public school to store naloxone and authorize school personnel to administer it.<sup>2</sup> The law also requires the Governor to include a general fund appropriation of at least \$3 million for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to award grants to local boards of education to implement the bill's requirements.<sup>3</sup> The law requires that all public schools store overdose-reversing medication in case of an opioid overdose emergency and have personnel trained in the application of overdose-reversing

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<sup>1</sup> [Prince George's County Council - Reference No. CR-076-2025](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Legislation - HB1082](#)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

medication, in case a student is experiencing an overdose.<sup>4</sup> Each public school is required to submit a report annually to MSDE on any opioid overdose incidents at the school that required the use of overdose-reversing medication.<sup>5</sup>

*Current County Law:*

The Prince George's County Board of Education adopted Board Policy 0112-Heroin and Opioid Education and Use of Naloxone or Other Overdose-Reversing Medication in July 2023, adopting the measures set forth in Education Article § 7-426.5.<sup>6</sup>

*Relevant legislation from Other Jurisdictions:*

Anne Arundel County Public Schools and the Anne Arundel County Department of Health have formed the Screening Teens to Access Recovery (STAR) Program, after a student died of an overdose, which allows school nurses to pair middle and high schoolers with substance abuse treatment services.<sup>7</sup> The STAR Program also requires a student's consent for their parents to be told about them seeking services. The Health Department will check in with a student who sought services a week after their screening to see if they contacted the resources or needed other resources. The model was adapted from school districts in Washington state.<sup>8</sup>

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**Resource Personnel:**

- Ramon Gonzalez, Legislative Attorney
- Michael Vaughn, Policy Director

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**Discussion/Policy Analysis:**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the top three causes of death among children in the United States currently are firearms-related injuries, car crashes, and drug overdoses.<sup>9</sup> Opioid overdoses on school properties nationwide are rare, but schools need to be prepared for overdoses in the same way they are prepared for any other medical emergency. According to the Maryland Department of Health's Overdose Data Portal, over the past 10 years, there have been 160 people under the age of 18 who have received naloxone at an educational institution within the County, out of a total of 577 people under the age of 18 who have received naloxone in the County.<sup>10</sup> There has been an average of 21 opioid related overdose deaths in the

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<sup>4</sup> [Maryland Code, Education § 7-426.5 | FindLaw](#)

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> [BP 0112 - Heroin and Opioid Education and Use of Naloxone or Other Overdose-Reversing Medication](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Maryland Schools Respond to Opioid Epidemic with Programs that Connect Teens to Screening and Treatment - MarylandReporter.com](#)

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> [Current Causes of Death in Children and Adolescents in the United States - PMC](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Pages - MDH Interactive Dashboards](#)

County annually over the past four years among County residents younger than 25 years old.<sup>11</sup> Between June 2024 and May 2025, there were 362 emergency room visits due to an opioid overdose in the County, of which 62 visits were by County residents younger than 25 years old.<sup>12</sup> In the same time period, there were 469 naloxone administration encounters in the County, and 41 of the encounters were with County residents younger than 25 years old.<sup>13</sup> Overdose deaths, naloxone administration encounters, and opioid caused emergency room visits have begun trending downwards since 2023.<sup>14</sup> The Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey, which studies drug use among high school students, showed 11.1% of high school students statewide in the SY 2022-2023 survey had used opioids, down from 15.2% 10 years ago.<sup>15</sup>

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### **Fiscal Impact:**

- *Direct Impact*

Adoption of CR-076-2025 is not likely to have any direct fiscal impact.

- *Indirect Impact*

Adoption of CR-054-2025 is not likely to have an indirect fiscal impact. However, an additional cost may be incurred if the audit exceeds the anticipated timeframe.

- *Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget*

No.

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### **Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:**

The proposed Resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

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If you require additional information or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please email me.

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> [Maryland Schools Respond to Opioid Epidemic with Programs that Connect Teens to Screening and Treatment - MarylandReporter.com](https://www.marylandreporter.com/2023/09/15/maryland-schools-respond-to-opioid-epidemic-with-programs-that-connect-teens-to-screening-and-treatment/)