

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 222

(Delegate Vogel)

Ways and Means and Appropriations

Education, Energy, and the Environment

County Boards of Education - Opioid Overdose-Reversing Medications - Policy
Requirements (Naloxone Access Act)

This bill requires each local board of education to expand authorization to possess and administer naloxone or other opioid-overdose reversing medications to include a high school student who has received training on the appropriate use of such medication. Additionally, the bill extends an exemption from liability for such high school students who respond in good faith to an overdose emergency of a student. A local board of education's policy on the use of naloxone or other opioid-overdose reversing medications may include a record of students who intend to possess such medications and whether those students have received appropriate training. The bill also repeals language limiting the scope of local board policies to apply to opioid overdose-reversing medication administered to an individual *located on school property*. Lastly, the bill clarifies references to naloxone or other *opioid-overdose* reversing medications and makes technical changes to remove obsolete funding and reporting requirements from statute. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) can update policies with existing budgeted resources. The Maryland Department of Health's Prevention and Health Promotion Administration can support MSDE in updating policies as needed with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Local boards of education can likely update policies as specified with existing budgeted resources. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Public Schools – Program of Drug Addiction Prevention and Education

Chapters 573 and 574 of 2017, the Heroin and Opioid Education and Community Action Act (Start Talking Maryland Act) require the State Board of Education to implement a program of drug addiction and prevention education in schools that includes instruction related to heroin and opioid addiction and prevention, including information relating to the lethal effect of fentanyl. This instruction must be delivered in grade bands as follows: (1) third grade through fifth grade; (2) sixth grade through eighth grade; and (3) ninth grade through twelfth grade. The instruction must be delivered as a stand-alone unit in the program.

Public Schools – Authority to Administer and Possess Overdose-reversing Medication

Under Chapters 573 and 574, each local board of education, in accordance with school health guidelines and State laws and regulations, must authorize the school nurse, school health services personnel, and other school personnel to administer naloxone or another overdose-reversing medication to a student or other person on school property who is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid overdose. The policy must include (1) a provision requiring all public schools to obtain and store naloxone or another overdose-reversing medication and (2) a requirement that each public school develop and implement a method for notifying parents or guardians of the policy. Current law exempts a school nurse, other school health services personnel who are licensed or certified under the Health Occupations Article, and other school personnel who respond in good faith to an overdose emergency from personal liability for any act or omission in the course of responding to the emergency, except for willful or grossly negligent acts.

Comprehensive Health Education Framework

MSDE advises that its [Comprehensive Health Education Standards and Frameworks Validation Committee](#) has adopted recommendations for updates to the State's health education framework that include instruction on opioid reversal methods for high school students. The recommendations were adopted by the State Board of Education at its February 24, 2026 meeting.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years; however, legislation with similar provisions has been proposed. For example, see HB 852 of 2025 and HB 1268 of 2024.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Maryland Higher Education Commission; Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland's Office of Overdose Response; University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; St. Mary's College of Maryland; Maryland Independent College and University Association; Baltimore City Community College; Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Baltimore City Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; Frederick County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Wicomico County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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