

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 515
Health

(Delegate Vogel)

Public Health - Local Drug Overdose Fatality Review Teams - Membership

This bill alters the membership of a local drug overdose fatality review team, such that the representative of a hospital must serve as vice president, chief medical officer, or assistant medical officer at the hospital.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill only affects local government operations.

Local Effect: The Maryland Association of County Health Officers advises that the bill has no material impact on local health department revenues or expenditures.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 650 of 2014 authorized the establishment of a multiagency and multidisciplinary local drug overdose fatality review team in each county. Local teams must meet at least quarterly to review the status of drug overdose death cases, recommend actions to improve coordination of services and investigations, and recommend actions within the member agencies to prevent overdose deaths. The membership of each local team must include individuals from law enforcement, health care, and social services, among other fields.

The purpose of the local teams is to prevent drug overdose deaths by promoting cooperation and coordination among agencies involved in investigations of drug overdose deaths; developing an understanding of the causes and incidence of drug overdose deaths

in the county; developing plans for and recommending changes within the agencies represented on the team to prevent drug overdose deaths; and advising the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) on changes to law, policy, or practice to prevent drug overdose deaths.

Each team must consult with MDH to establish and implement a protocol for the local team; set a goal of investigating drug overdose deaths in accordance with national standards; and collect, maintain, and report data regarding overdose fatality deaths as required by MDH. Health care providers and State and local government agencies must provide a local team with access to relevant information and records.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 22, 2026
caw/jc

Analysis by: Eliana R. Prober

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510