



Senate Bill 1255 – Public Health – Opioids – Dispensing Requirement

Position: *Oppose*

Bill Summary

SB 1255 would require a drug classified as an opioid to be dispensed with a nontoxic composition designed to permanently and chemically sequester or deactivate the drug and be used for disposal of the drug; and establish that a certain provision of the Act does not relieve a person from certain requirements of law regarding controlled dangerous substances.

MHA Position

Given the state's pervasive and growing opioid crisis, Maryland's hospitals agree with the intent of this bill: to neutralize opioids ahead of disposal, when they are no longer needed for medical reasons.

However, due to the novelty of the chemical sequestration/deactivation process, and uncertainty about training and utilization procedures, hospitals cannot support this bill at this time.

The products available to neutralize/deactivate opioids have only been in use for a short time, and there are significant concerns about their appropriate utilization and the training needed to use them effectively. Currently, there are no evidence-based clinical guidelines or best practices for dispensation of these products.

Additional analysis is needed to fully understand the best way to deploy these products so they can achieve the intended effects without jeopardizing the safety of patients or unnecessarily adding to the cost of health care.

For these reasons, we urge you to give SB 1255 an *unfavorable* report.