

Bill Number: HB 519**Recommended Position: Support****Title:** Public Health – Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Safer Drug Consumption Facility Program**Issue area:** Health**Lead Sponsors:** Delegate Morhaim**House Cosponsors:** Anderson, Barve, Fraser-Hidalgo, Frick, Gutierrez, Hettleman, Lierman, A. Miller, Moon, Robinson, Tarlau, Turner and K. Young**Senate Cosponsors:** N/A

Summary:

HB 519 would create an Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Safer Drug Consumption Facility Program. Community-based organizations would then submit an application to administer the program to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene or a local health department.

Reason for the Bill:

This bill provides places for individuals to use drugs in a safe environment with the ultimate goal of saving lives and promoting safe drug use. There are 100 similar safe drug use programs in 66 cities across the world including in Europe, Australia and Canada. Washington is the first state to move forward with the programs.

Legislative History:

2016 Unfavorable report by Health and Government Operations; withdrawn
1/27/2017 First reading Health and Government Operations; committee hearing 2/21

Support:

- University of Maryland School of Medicine
- Bloomberg School of Health at Johns Hopkins
- Center for Mental Health and Addition Policy Research at Johns Hopkins

Opposition:

- Maryland Association for Justice

Strategic Considerations:

Safe consumption remains a relatively new concept across the country and challenges the way we think about drug use. Many believe it condones substance abuse. Overcoming these stances makes bill passage difficult. The agency must also consider whether it could have an impact in our fundraising efforts.

Why Health Care for the Homeless should support this bill:

Safe consumption facilities have been proven to reduce spread of disease and to improve the overall health of drug users. Health Care for the Homeless supports initiatives that redefine the way we treat drug use and that also make the health and safety of the user the number one priority.

Bill Number: SB 230 / HB1**Recommended Position: Support****Title:** Maryland Healthy Working Families Act (Sick Leave)**Issue Area:** Income**Lead Sponsors:** Senator Middleton and Delegate Clippinger**Senate Cosponsors:** Astle, Benson, Conway, Currie, Feldman, Ferguson, Guzzone, Kagan, Kasemeyer, King, Lee, Madaleno, Manno, McFadden, Peters, Pinsky, Ramirez, Robinson, Nathan-Pulliam, Rosapepe, Smith, Young and Zucker**House Cosponsors:** Davis**Summary:**

HB 1 would require employers that employ 15 or more employees to provide those employees with earned sick and safe leave that is paid at the same wage rate as the employee normally earns. For employers with 14 or fewer employees, they would be required to provide an employee with unpaid earned sick and safe leave in some capacity.

Reason for the Bill:

The U.S. is the only industrialized country that doesn't mandate paid sick leave in the world. Twenty states and cities across the country have enacted it already - and more are underway. Studies show that paid sick leave improves employee health and businesses. The University of Washington did a study showing that one year after Seattle mandated paid sick leave, employment actually rose.

Legislative History:

2016	Passed the House in a party line vote by failed to move in Senate
1/19/2017	First Reading Senate Finance; committee hearing 1/24
1/11/2017	First Reading House Economic Matters; committee hearing 2/10

Support:

- The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union Local 400
- United Workers
- Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO
- Dr. Leana S. Wen, city health commissioner
- The Service Employees International Union 1199
- Working Families
- Cancer Support Foundation

Opposition:

- The National Federation of Independent Businesses
- The Maryland Chamber of Commerce
- Howard County Chamber of Commerce
- Maryland Retailers Association

Strategic Considerations:

We are confident that paid sick leave will pass this year. Del. Luke Clippinger/Del. Derrick Davis have introduced HB1/SB230, and Governor Hogan has introduced his own competing legislation (SB305/HB382). There is some distinct difference between the two. HB 1 applies to employers with 15 employees or more and covers part time workers, whereas Governor Hogan's bill applies to employers with 50 employees, does not cover part time workers, and offers tax incentives. The biggest fight here will be for HB1 without amendments.

Why Health Care for the Homeless should support this bill:

Paid sick leave protects people's access to wages and upholds our efforts to ensure people have access to health care and livable wages.

Bill Number: HB 172 / SB 728**Recommended Position: Support****Title:** HOME Act of 2017**Issue Area:** Housing**Lead Sponsors:** Delegate Lafferty and Senator Smith**House Cosponsors:** Delegate McIntosh**Senate Cosponsors:** Smith, Benson, Guzzone, Kelley, Manno, Muse, Nathan, Pulliam, Pinsky, Ramirez, Robinson, Young and Zucker**Summary:**

The Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) Act seeks to deconcentrate poverty by giving people who use public subsidies opportunities to live in neighborhoods other than the neighborhoods they are currently and disproportionately residing in. It would also expand fair housing provisions to include individuals regardless of their source of income and prohibit other specified discriminatory acts based on a person's source of income.

Reason for the Bill:

As noted in the bill's preamble, 11 states, the District of Columbia, and numerous local jurisdictions have laws prohibiting discrimination based on a person's source of income. The HOME Act prohibits landlords and other property owners from discriminating against persons seeking housing based on their "source of income." Consequently, it will help create more mixed-income communities and greater affordable housing.

Legislative History:

2013	SB 487 First Reading Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2014	HB 366 Withdrawn
2/8/2016	First Reading Judicial Proceedings; committee hearing 2/28
1/19/2017	First Reading Environment and Transportation; committee hearing 2/07

Support:

- Fraternal Order of Police – Balt. Co.
- National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
- MD Affordable Housing Coalition (MAHC)
- Community Development Network
- Housing Authority of Baltimore City
- Baltimore Jewish Council
- NAACP State Conference
- Community Advocates
- AHC of Greater Baltimore
- MD Assoc. of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies (MAHRA)
- Community Action Network
- SEIU of MD and DC
- MD Catholic Conf.
- Public Justice Ctr.
- Homeless Persons Rep. Project
- Casa de Maryland

Opposition

- Maryland Realtors Association
- Maryland Multi Housing Association
- Regional Property Management

Strategic Considerations:

Fair housing advocates say banning income discrimination is critical to expanding the availability of affordable homes outside of areas where poverty is concentrated. Opponents of the bill include landlords and real estate agents, who say they shouldn't be forced to accept government vouchers. To see movement on this bill, advocates must make an economic argument, opposed to a moral argument. Del. Jay Jalisi is both a property manager and could be a huge influencer in this discussion.

Numerous advocacy groups and organizations belonging to the HOME Act Coalition have been pushing for this bill for two decades. Delegate Lafferty has been the lead sponsor of the HOME Act in the House since 2011. The bill still faces strong opposition among large scale property managers and housing developers whose main argument is that they want the program to remain voluntary and do not want to be forced to work with the Housing Authority.

In 2013, for the first time in its history, the bill was voted out of committee in the Senate, but it did not get a vote in the House. The following year, in 2014, Delegate Neimann introduced a second source of income discrimination bill (HB 1098) that allowed housing developments to apply for an exemption to the local housing authority, essentially undermining the purpose of the HOME Act. Chairman McIntosh wanted to see a compromise between the two versions of the bill (Lafferty and Neimann's bills) in order to move forward. No compromise could be reached in negotiations, so both bills were withdrawn. In the aftermath 2013 and 2014, the Coalition decided to pursue a local strategy in Baltimore County to try to gain some traction and support for the issue. The assumption underlying this strategy is that if Baltimore County can pass a HOME Act at the local level then there will be less resistance to passing the bill at the state level.

In 2011, a complaint was filed with the Department of Housing and Urban Development over decades of discriminatory housing practices in Baltimore County. Then in March 2016, Baltimore Neighborhoods Inc., the NAACP of Baltimore County, and three Baltimore County residents signed a landmark agreement with the Department of Housing and Urban Development aimed at reversing these trends. Among the key provisions of the Conciliation and Voluntary Compliance Agreement is a requirement that the County Executive must introduce and support the passage of source of income anti-discrimination legislation (unless the General Assembly enacts a statewide HOME Act). In July of 2016 the Baltimore County Council had a hearing packed with supporters, yet still failed to pass a source of income law. Fortunately, the Conciliation and Voluntary Compliance Agreement makes fair housing compliance and enforcement on the local or state level more viable in the coming years. If no bill is passed by the end of the 2018 General Assembly session, then the County Executive in office on January 1, 2019 must submit and promote the HOME Act each year until a state or county law passes until the termination of the agreement in 2028.

Why Health Care for the Homeless should support this bill:

Health Care for the Homeless supports policies, programs, and practices that increase the availability and accessibility of housing affordable to households with extremely low incomes. We provide permanent supportive housing services to hundreds of people living in deep poverty—most of whom rely on public voucher programs to fill the gap between what housing costs and what they can afford. We support efforts to de-concentrate poverty such as HB 172/SB 728—the HOME Act.