

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0045R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Conway
Introduced and read first time: December 15, 2025
Assigned to: Public Health and the Environment Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Fire Department, Health Department, Department of Finance, Mayor’s Office of Recovery Programs, Mayor’s Office of Overdose Response

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Request for City Action — Administration of Buprenorphine**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on the Mayor and the Fire Chief to equip all paramedics with
4 buprenorphine and provide them with training in buprenorphine administration.

5 **Recitals**

6 **WHEREAS**, the United States has an epidemic of opioid abuse.

7 **WHEREAS**, from 2018 to 2024, over 6,000 lives were lost to drug overdoses in Baltimore
8 City, at a rate nearly double that of any major American city in history.

9 **WHEREAS**, buprenorphine is a medication that binds to an individual’s opioid receptors as a
10 method of blocking dangerous opioids.

11 **WHEREAS**, buprenorphine has been proven to suppress the symptoms and reduce the risks of
12 opioid withdrawal.

13 **WHEREAS**, programs such as Frederick County, Maryland’s Mobile Integrated Health Unit
14 and the Baltimore Fire Department’s population health unit have seen the benefits of
15 administering buprenorphine in the field by a trained paramedic, with local officials noting its
16 impact on recovery outcomes.

17 **WHEREAS**, research suggests that an individual recovering from an opioid overdose with the
18 help of naloxone, followed by buprenorphine administered in the field by a trained paramedic,
19 may be more likely to enter treatment following an overdose than an individual who did not
20 receive buprenorphine.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 **WHEREAS**, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems
2 §15.18 - Optional Supplemental Protocol indicates the administration of buprenorphine for a
3 patient who has provided express consent for treatment and has experienced an opioid overdose
4 which required treatment with naloxone and has a Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS)
5 score equal or greater than 8, as well as for a patient that is experiencing symptoms associated
6 with opioid withdrawal and has a COWS score equal or greater than 5 and reports no opioid use
7 within the past 48 hours.

8 **WHEREAS**, if buprenorphine were administered in 100% of overdose calls, the cost would be
9 \$4,305, according to a bill report from the Department of Finance.

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the
11 Baltimore City Council calls on the Mayor and the Fire Chief to equip all paramedics with
12 buprenorphine and provide them with training in buprenorphine administration.

13 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the City
14 Administrator, the Commissioner of the Health Department, the Commissioner of the Baltimore
15 Police Department, the Chief of the Fire Department, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of
16 Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Emergency
17 Management, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.