



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 25-0014

Emergency Medical Services – Administration of Buprenorphine

Committee: Public Health and Environment
Chaired by: Chairwoman Phylicia Porter
Hearing Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025
Time (Beginning): 10:20 AM
Time (Ending): 11:20 AM
Location: **Council Chambers**
Total Attendance: Approximately 45 In-Person
Approximately 15 Virtually

Committee Members in Attendance:

Phylicia Porter James Torrence
Mark Parker Odette Ramos
Mark Conway

Bill Synopsis in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Attendance sheet in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Agency reports read.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Michelle Toth, Law Department
- Chief James Wallace, Fire Department
- Julia Roche, Health Department
- Nina Themelis, Mayor’s Office
- Gabriel Stuart-Sikowitz, Finance Department

- Public Testimony:
 - Lauren Reck, Med Clinics
 - Jay Unick, Professor
 - Dr. Drew Fuller, Bright Well Health
 - Chief Phillips, MSMAA (Military)

Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilman Conway, primary sponsor of the legislation gave opening remarks and stated, “it is about saving lives.”
2. Four (4) speakers gave public testimony. Some highlighted comments, topics and/or concerns were:
 - Several speakers supported the legislation
 - Talked about statistics relating to “the high overdose rate in City of Baltimore
 - Concern: Would like to be aware of “what the medication actually does,” that are provided by organizations
 - Needed: connection(s) to treatment
 - Talked about “withdrawal symptoms”
 - Statistical data pertaining to “death rates”
 - Dr. Fuller:
 - Talked about the reasons he went into medicine/became a doctor
 - Statements made:
 - Now is the time to lead not lag!
 - Now is the time to make this a reality!
 - Medication provided:
 - What medication does
 - Helps lower overdose deaths
 - Are safe and effective
 - Number of People Served: The demand is very high! The demand is so high that we can’t keep up with it!
3. Chairwoman Porter went over the agency reports with the agency representatives.
4. The representative from the Law Department talked about its report in detail, explaining the unfavorable report; stating, “This bill is in conflict with State Law and is preempted by State Law.”
5. The representative from the Mayor’s Office also piggybacked on the comments and/or concerns posed by the Law Department by underscoring some of the information contained in the report.
6. Committee/council members asked questions and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/concerns were:
 - Questions:
 - How many paramedics are administering buprenorphine? **Answer: There are 200 positions, but not all administer buprenorphine.**
 - Per the Finance Department’s report, it would be incredibly cheap to implement this! To Law Department: Can you give a little more detail why this would not work? **Answer: The State have control over the use of buprenorphine (this is the bottom line).**
 - Can the Mayor compel the Fire Department to follow this protocol?
 - **Request from Member Conway: To Law Department: Can you research (the legality of) rather or not, the Mayor can compel the Fire Department to follow this protocol?**

- To Health Department: When someone gets a first dose how do you track and/or give more doses? How does that work?
- Comments:
 - I don't understand because I believe the bills works in confines of the State law!
 - This bill does not take any decisions from the State!
 - Chairwoman Porter asked that Member Conway and the representative from the Law Department talk off-line about the situation at hand. Per Member Conway, "This is worth working out and have been adopted in other countries. I look forward to working with the Law Department."
 - Member Torrence stated his understanding of why the legislation can't move forward and said, "I want to make sure we are all on the same page to simplify this."
 - Remarks giving regarding who can and/or can't change laws, examples such as: Tax Sales and Property Taxes."

7. Questions from Chairwoman Porter to Dr. Fuller and Lauren Reck:

- Peer Recovery Report
 - Is there a time lapse for delivering same?
 - Peer Recovery Services – This is an opportunity to use some of our peers!
- Toxicology Screening
 - Is there a requirement beforehand during screening?

8. Closing remarks from committee members:

- Member Torrence:
 - The opportunity is now to be creative; to look at ways to expand the system!
- Chairwoman Porter:
 - Getting connected to other needed services afterward is important! When this happens, this is when we will see real change!
- Member Conway:
 - We must look at the system whereas we are not overtaxing our EMS staff!
 - It is important that individuals find out what his/her next best steps are! Anything the Council can do to help is vital!
 - This is an opportunity for our city to be a real leader!
 - It will take changing the system by not during the same things as in the past 10 years! We are looking to find ways to make this happen!
 - There are 10's of thousands of people dealing with addiction and this will help with recovery!

9. Hearing recessed.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

1. See highlights "yellow and red" above.

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff
cc: Bill File

Date: November 20, 2025

Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Bill: Emergency Medical Services – Administration of Buprenorphine	# 25-0014
Committee: Public Health and Environment	Chair: Phylicia Porter
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025	Time: 10:00 AM

Location: **Council Chambers**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lauren	Reck	MAT Clinics lauren@matclinics.com	✓	✓			
Jay	Unicle	Our School of Social Work (BHI) jUnicle@SSW.Vm.edu	✓	✓			✓
Draw	Fuller	BrightWell Health Draw.Fuller@brightwellhealth.com	✓	✓			✓

*NOTE: IF YOU ARE COMPENSATED OR INCUR EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BILL, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REGISTER WITH THE CITY ETHICS BOARD AS A LOBBYIST. REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE ONLINE AND IS A SIMPLE PROCESS. FOR INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTPS://ETHICS.BALTIMORECITY.GOV/](https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/) OR CALL: 410-396-4730

City of Baltimore

City Council
City Hall, Room 408
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Meeting Minutes - Final

Public Health & Environment Committee

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

10:00 AM Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall, Phone:
1-408-418-9388, Access code: 2347 916 7532, Password:
Public Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?
MTID=m383221f390e1835c4d7f6647b671ad95](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m383221f390e1835c4d7f6647b671ad95)

25-0014 - Administration of Buprenorphine and 25-0005R Informational Hearing - Availability of Naloxone in Public Buildings

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 5 - Phylicia Porter, Mark Conway, Mark Parker, James Torrence, and Odette Ramos

Absent 2 - Ryan Dorsey, and John Bullock

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

25-0014 Emergency Medical Services – Administration of Buprenorphine

FOR the purpose of requiring Baltimore City Emergency Medical Services to provide buprenorphine to all Emergency Medical Services technicians; allowing Emergency Medical Services technicians to administer buprenorphine to an individual under certain circumstances; and defining certain terms.

The hearing for Bill 25-0014 was held and adjourned.

25-0005R Informational Hearing - Availability of Naloxone in Public Buildings

FOR the purpose of requiring the City Administrator, Commissioner of the Baltimore Health Department, and the Director of the Department of General Services to appear before the City Council to present an assessment of the City's readiness to comply with the provisions of Chapter 764 of the Acts of the Maryland General Assembly of 2024, "Emergency Services – Automated External Defibrillator and Naloxone Co-Location Initiative – Requirements for Public Buildings", by updating its health and safety protocols for all City buildings.

A motion was made by member Conway that Resolution 25-0005R be Recommended Favorably. This motion carried by the following vote: