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April 3, 2025

Testimony of Representative Amy Roeder introducing
**LD 1235, An Act to Establish Transparency in Opioid Settlement Funds
Allocated to Municipalities or Counties**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Amy Roeder, and I represent House District 23, which includes a portion of the great City of Bangor.

I am here today to introduce **LD 1235, An Act to Establish Transparency in Opioid Settlement Funds Allocated to Municipalities or Counties.**

This is a simple bill that would require an annual report to be submitted to the Attorney General that details how opioid settlement funds are received and expended by municipalities or counties, with a detailed description of each expenditure.

This entire committee is aware of how crucial these funds are in helping community members who are recovering from substance use disorder. To ensure that this population is being served to the best of our ability here in Maine, we must track how this money is used.

I understand that this committee completed the public hearing and work session process for a similar bill, LD 110, An Act to Require Reporting on the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds by Certain Municipalities and County Governments.

This measure, however, is a bit different. I would like to offer a friendly amendment that would direct all accrued interest to be returned to the Attorney General's opioid settlement funds.

In Bangor, we have seen the city pocket the interest from these funds. As of now, Bangor has no plans on how to distribute opioid settlement funds, nor do they have a special committee or council set up to advise the city. Moreover, when asked about using settlement funds to keep the

Hope House open, Bangor legislators were told that Bangor already spent all of its opioid settlement funds on a \$30K syringe cleanup program.

It is crucial that there be transparency in how these funds are spent. This is helpful for all parties and ensures that those held accountable for spending the funds do so in a way that is responsible and will ultimately be helpful for community members recovering from substance use disorder.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

April 3, 2025

Amendment Offered by Rep. Roeder to L.D. 1235 “An Act to Establish Transparency in Opioid Settlement Funds Allocated to Municipalities or Counties”

Amend the bill as follows:

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §203-D is enacted to read:

§203-D. Reporting on funds received by direct share subdivisions pursuant to court settlements of opioid crisis litigation; accrued interest

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms have the following meanings:

A. "Maine Recovery Fund" means the fund described by the Memoranda of Understanding.

B. "Memoranda of Understanding" means the 2 agreements entitled "Maine State-Subdivision Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement Regarding Use of Settlement Funds," dated and signed on January 26, 2022, and "Maine State-Subdivision Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement Regarding Use of Settlement Funds-2023," dated and signed on May 2, 2023, including subsequent amendments and Schedule A, Core Strategies and Schedule B, Approved Uses.

2. Reports. A direct share subdivision that receives funds pursuant to the court settlements of the opioid crisis litigation, as set forth in the Memoranda of Understanding, shall submit a report to the Attorney General by January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, detailing the amount of such funds received and expended in the prior calendar year, including a description of each such expenditure.

3. Accrued interest. A direct share subdivision that receives funds pursuant to the court settlements of the opioid crisis litigation, as set forth in the Memoranda of Understanding and that maintains these funds in an interest-bearing account, shall by December 31, 2025, and annually thereafter, transfer an amount equal to the total interest earned in the calendar year to the state, which shall place these funds into the Maine Recovery Fund for use in accordance with the terms of the Memoranda of Understanding.

As used in this section, "Memoranda of Understanding" has the same meaning as in section 203-C, subsection 1, paragraph C and "direct share subdivision" means a municipality or county that is a plaintiff subdivision identified in Exhibit 3 of the Memoranda of Understanding.

SUMMARY

This amendment adds a definition subsection. It adds language requiring a direct share subdivision that receives funds pursuant to the court settlements of the opioid crisis litigation, as

set forth in the Memoranda of Understanding and that maintains these funds in an interest-bearing account, to, by December 31, 2025, and annually thereafter, transfer an amount equal to the total interest earned in the calendar year to the state, which shall place these funds into the Maine Recovery Fund for use in accordance with the terms of the Memoranda of Understanding.

HOUSE BILL 798

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5lr1606
CF SB 589

By: Delegates Lehman, Addison, Allen, Boyce, Foley, Guyton, Hill, Jacobs, Kaiser, R. Lewis, J. Long, Martinez, T. Morgan, Nawrocki, Ruth, Taveras, Terrasa, White Holland, Woods, Woorman, and ~~Ziegler~~ Ziegler, Pena-Melnyk, Cullison, Alston, Bagnall, Bhandari, Chisholm, Guzzone, Hutchinson, S. Johnson, Kerr, Kipke, Lopez, M. Morgan, Reilly, Rosenberg, Ross, and Szeliga

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2025

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 2, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Opioid Restitution Fund – Interactive Dashboard**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Office of Overdose Response, in collaboration
4 with the Maryland Department of Health, to develop and maintain an interactive
5 dashboard on Opioid Restitution Fund spending to share prescription opioid–related
6 settlement information with the public; requiring the dashboard to include links to
7 the State, county, or municipal websites that provide access to additional
8 information on the use of opioid–related settlement funds; requiring counties and
9 municipalities receiving settlement funding to provide certain information to the
10 Department to include on the dashboard in a certain manner; requiring that the
11 dashboard be developed and maintained using funds from the Opioid Restitution
12 Fund appropriated through the State budget; and generally relating to an interactive
13 dashboard on Opioid Restitution Fund spending.

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Health – General

16 Section 7.5–1001 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 10. Opioid Restitution
17 Settlement Funding Interactive Dashboard”

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
2 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 Article - Health - General

4 SUBTITLE 10. OPIOID RESTITUTION SETTLEMENT FUNDING INTERACTIVE
5 DASHBOARD.

6 7.5-1001.

7 (A) THE MARYLAND OFFICE OF OVERDOSE RESPONSE, IN
8 COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, SHALL DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN AN
9 INTERACTIVE DASHBOARD ON OPIOID RESTITUTION FUND SPENDING FOR THE
10 PURPOSE OF SHARING PRESCRIPTION OPIOID-RELATED SETTLEMENT
11 INFORMATION WITH THE PUBLIC.

12 (B) THE DASHBOARD DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED UNDER SUBSECTION
13 (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE, DISAGGREGATED BY STATE, COUNTY, AND
14 MUNICIPALITY:

15 (1) PAYMENT SCHEDULE INFORMATION ON ESTIMATED PAYMENTS
16 TO THE STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY FROM OPIOID SETTLEMENTS;

17 (2) PAST SPENDING OF SETTLEMENT FUNDS;

18 (3) SPENDING PLANS AND PRIORITIES; AND

19 (4) A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ANY INITIATIVE FUNDED WITH
20 SETTLEMENT FUNDS, INCLUDING PERFORMANCE MEASURES IF APPLICABLE.

21 (C) ~~THE~~ IF THERE IS A STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL WEBSITE THAT
22 PROVIDES ACCESS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE USE OF OPIOID-RELATED
23 SETTLEMENT FUNDS BY THE STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY, THE DASHBOARD
24 SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION ON PUBLIC HEARINGS CONDUCTED IN THE STATE,
25 COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY REGARDING THE USE OF SETTLEMENT FUNDS FROM THE
26 OPIOID RESTITUTION FUND A LINK TO THE STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL
27 WEBSITE.

28 (D) (1) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A COUNTY OR
29 MUNICIPALITY THAT:

30 (I) COMPLIES WITH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
31 ESTABLISHED IN AN OPIOID-RELATED SETTLEMENT; AND

1 **(II) SHARES THE DATA IN THE REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER AN**
2 **OPIOID-RELATED SETTLEMENT WITH THE APPROPRIATE STATE ENTITY.**

3 **(2)** A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY RECEIVING SETTLEMENT FUNDS
4 SHALL PROVIDE TO THE DEPARTMENT THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION
5 RELATED TO SETTLEMENT FUNDING TO INCLUDE AS INFORMATION ON THE
6 DASHBOARD.

7 ~~**(2)**~~ **(3)** INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED UNDER
8 PARAGRAPH ~~**(1)**~~ **(2)** OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE
9 TERMS OF ANY OPIOID-RELATED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.

10 ~~**(3)**~~ **(4)** THE DEPARTMENT SHALL UPLOAD OPIOID-RELATED
11 SETTLEMENT INFORMATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY A COUNTY OR
12 MUNICIPALITY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF AN OPIOID-RELATED
13 SETTLEMENT.

14 **(5)** THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AN ONLINE PORTAL WITH
15 INSTRUCTIONS FOR A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY TO REPORT OR UPLOAD REQUIRED
16 INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR USE IN THE DASHBOARD.

17 **(E)** TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE DASHBOARD SHALL USE EXISTING
18 PLATFORMS THAT PROVIDE DATA ON OPIOID USE AND OVERDOSES IN THE STATE.

19 **(F)** THE DASHBOARD SHALL BE DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED USING
20 FUNDS FROM THE OPIOID RESTITUTION FUND AS APPROPRIATED THROUGH THE
21 STATE BUDGET.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.