



The State of Maryland

Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER 01.01.2017.02

Executive Order Regarding the Heroin, Opioid, and Fentanyl Overdose Crisis Declaration of Emergency

- WHEREAS, The State of Maryland is subject to an emergency as defined in Section 14-101(c) of the Public Safety Article of the Code of Maryland;
- WHEREAS, Heroin and opioid abuse is an illness that threatens the well-being, productivity, livelihood, and relationships of Marylanders;
- WHEREAS, Heroin and opioid use has tripled nationwide in the last 12 months, with approximately 27 million users across the country;
- WHEREAS, The increased abuse of fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid pain medication, which is being mixed with heroin, cocaine, and other narcotics, has resulted in sharply increased deaths during the past two years creating a crisis that requires an immediate response;
- WHEREAS, Since 2015, the State has taken steps to combat the growing number of overdoses and deaths stemming from the heroin, opioid, and fentanyl crisis, including the establishment of the Heroin and Opioid Emergency Task Force (EO 01.01.2015.12) to study and make recommendations, the Inter-Agency Heroin and Opioid Coordinating Council (EO 01.01.2015.13) to facilitate coordination among State agencies, and the Opioid Operational Command Center (EO 01.01.2017.01) to implement State policies and adopt memoranda of understanding with local agencies;
- WHEREAS, The Heroin and Opioid Emergency Task Force recommended 33 proposals to combat the heroin, opioid, and fentanyl crisis, which are being rapidly implemented throughout State government;

WHEREAS, In January 2017, Governor Hogan created the Opioid Operational Command Center to more fully and effectively coordinate federal, State, and local resources;

WHEREAS, The preliminary information collected by and provided to the Opioid Operational Command Center reflects an immediate emergency caused by the acceleration of the heroin, opioid, and fentanyl crisis;

WHEREAS, Recognizing the need for urgent and expeditious action, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency provides a proven operational infrastructure to effectively deal with this crisis by enhancing the cooperation between State agencies and local emergency management personnel; and

WHEREAS, In order to facilitate the deployment of requisite resources to and in order to implement the emergency powers of the Governor to curb further heroin, opioid, and fentanyl overdoses and resulting deaths, an Executive Order of the Governor is appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TITLE 14 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE, AND BASED ON THE ABOVE FINDINGS, DECLARE THAT A STATE OF EMERGENCY EXISTS WITHIN THE ENTIRE STATE OF MARYLAND PERTAINING TO THE NEED TO CONTROL AND ELIMINATE THE HEROIN, OPIOID, AND FENTANYL OVERDOSE CRISIS.

In response to this public health emergency, the following measures are enacted:

A. The Governor will assign an individual in the Executive Branch to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency who will be designated to administer the Governor's authority under the Maryland Emergency Management Agency Act and operationally address the heroin, opioid, and fentanyl overdose crisis (the "Crisis"), including:

(1) Directing the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, the Maryland State Police, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, and/or any other appropriate State agency or unit, including the Heroin and Opioid Emergency Task Force, the Interagency Heroin and Opioid Coordination Council, and the Opioid Operational Command Center, to assist, engage, deploy, and coordinate available resources to address the Crisis;

(2) Coordinating the preparation of plans, programs, and infrastructure for emergency management operations of the local political subdivisions of the State, employing their social service, law enforcement, and public health functions;

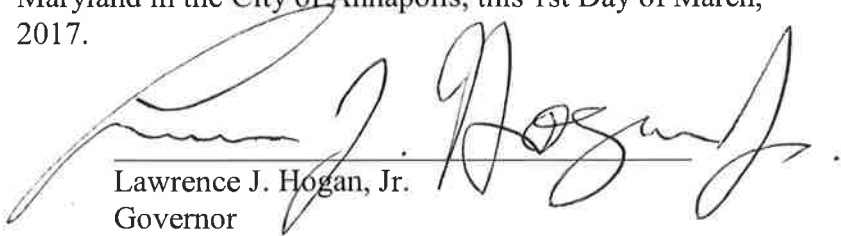
(3) Instituting public information and awareness programs;

(4) Authorizing the procurement of supplies and equipment necessary to control and eliminate the Crisis; and

(5) Taking other necessary steps to address this emergency.

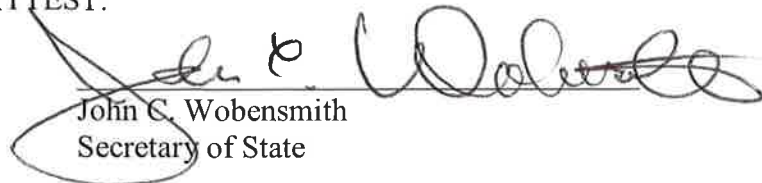
B. This declaration shall be effective immediately, shall continue for thirty (30) days, and shall expire on March 31, 2017, unless sooner terminated or extended in writing by me.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland in the City of Annapolis, this 1st Day of March, 2017.


Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor



ATTEST:


John C. Wobensmith
Secretary of State