

# HOUSE BILL 837

E1, E2, J1

2lr1616

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By: **Delegate Clippinger**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2022

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Cannabis Reform**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission, in  
4 consultation with certain stakeholders, to conduct a certain baseline study of  
5 cannabis use in the State; establishing the Cannabis Business Assistance Fund in  
6 the Department of Commerce as a special, nonlapsing fund to provide assistance to  
7 small, minority, and women-owned businesses entering the adult-use cannabis  
8 industry; altering certain provisions relating to penalties, charging procedures,  
9 expungement, shielding, and sentencing for certain offenses involving marijuana;  
10 legalizing the use and possession of a certain quantity of marijuana by a person who  
11 is at least a certain age; establishing the Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council;  
12 establishing the Cannabis Public Health Fund; adding the smoking of cannabis and  
13 hemp to certain provisions of law prohibiting smoking in certain indoor areas; and  
14 generally relating to cannabis.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Health – General

17 Section 13–4401 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 44. Cannabis Use Baseline  
18 Study”; and 13–4501 through 13–4506 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle  
19 45. Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council”

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

22 BY adding to

23 Article – Economic Development

24 Section 5–1901 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 19. Cannabis Business  
25 Assistance Fund”

26 Annotated Code of Maryland

27 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

28 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
2 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)  
3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
4 (2021 Replacement Volume)
- 5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
6 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
7 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)144. and 145.  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2021 Replacement Volume)
- 10 BY adding to  
11 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
12 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)146. and 147.  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2021 Replacement Volume)
- 15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
16 Article – Criminal Law  
17 Section 5–101(a) and 5–601(a) and (c)(1)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)
- 20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
21 Article – Criminal Law  
22 Section 5–601(a), (c)(2) and (4), and (d), 5–601.1, 5–602, 5–603, and 5–607  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)
- 25 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
26 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
27 Section 3–8A–01(a)  
28 Annotated Code of Maryland  
29 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)
- 30 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
31 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
32 Section 3–8A–01(dd) and 3–8A–33(a)  
33 Annotated Code of Maryland  
34 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)
- 35 BY repealing  
36 Article – Criminal Law  
37 Section 5–101(r)  
38 Annotated Code of Maryland  
39 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

- 1 BY adding to  
2 Article – Criminal Law  
3 Section 5–101(r)  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)
- 6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Criminal Procedure  
8 Section 4–101(c), 10–101(e), 10–105(a)(12) and (c)(8), 10–107, 10–110(a) and (c), and  
9 10–111  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)
- 12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article – Criminal Procedure  
14 Section 10–101(a) and (d)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)
- 17 BY adding to  
18 Article – Criminal Procedure  
19 Section 10–105.3 and 10–112  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)
- 22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
23 Article – Health – General  
24 Section 24–501 through 24–503, 24–507, and 24–510  
25 Annotated Code of Maryland  
26 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)
- 27 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
28 Article – Health – General  
29 Section 24–504, 24–505, and 24–508  
30 Annotated Code of Maryland  
31 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

34 **Article – Health – General**

35 **SUBTITLE 44. CANNABIS USE BASELINE STUDY.**

36 **13–4401.**

1           **(A) THE NATALIE M. LAPRADE MEDICAL CANNABIS COMMISSION, IN**  
2 **CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
3 **ADMINISTRATION, THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND**  
4 **VICTIM SERVICES, THE MARYLAND POISON CENTER, THE STATE'S DESIGNATED**  
5 **HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE, AND THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION,**  
6 **SHALL CONDUCT, OR CONTRACT WITH AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR**  
7 **A PRIVATE RESEARCH ENTITY TO CONDUCT, A COMPREHENSIVE BASELINE STUDY**  
8 **OF CANNABIS USE IN THE STATE THAT INCLUDES A SURVEY OF:**

9           **(1) PATTERNS OF USE, INCLUDING FREQUENCY OF USE AND DOSING,**  
10 **METHODS OF CONSUMPTION, AND GENERAL PERCEPTIONS OF CANNABIS AMONG:**

11                   **(I) INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS;**

12                   **(II) INDIVIDUALS AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD AND UNDER THE AGE**  
13 **OF 55 YEARS;**

14                   **(III) INDIVIDUALS AT LEAST 55 YEARS OLD;**

15                   **(IV) PREGNANT WOMEN; AND**

16                   **(V) BREASTFEEDING WOMEN;**

17           **(2) INCIDENTS OF IMPAIRED DRIVING, INCLUDING ARRESTS,**  
18 **ACCIDENTS, AND FATALITIES, RELATED TO CANNABIS USE;**

19           **(3) HOSPITALIZATIONS RELATED TO CANNABIS USE;**

20           **(4) CALLS TO POISON CONTROL CENTERS RELATED TO CANNABIS**  
21 **USE, INCLUDING DATA ON CALLS RELATED TO INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE AGE OF 21**  
22 **YEARS; AND**

23           **(5) DIAGNOSES OF CANNABIS USE DISORDER AND PROBLEM**  
24 **CANNABIS USE.**

25           **(B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2023, THE NATALIE M. LAPRADE MEDICAL**  
26 **CANNABIS COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE**  
27 **BASELINE STUDY CONDUCTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO THE**  
28 **GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**  
29 **ARTICLE, THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE SENATE JUDICIAL**  
30 **PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, AND THE HOUSE**  
31 **HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE.**

1 (C) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025, AND EVERY OTHER YEAR  
2 THEREAFTER, THE NATALIE M. LAPRADE MEDICAL CANNABIS COMMISSION  
3 SHALL:

4 (1) SURVEY THE SAME FACTORS THAT ARE SET FORTH IN  
5 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION;

6 (2) USE THE SAME METHODOLOGY OR MODEL THAT IS USED TO  
7 CONDUCT THE SURVEY REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION; AND

8 (3) SUBMIT A REPORT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY REQUIRED  
9 UNDER THIS SUBSECTION TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257  
10 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE  
11 SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE JUDICIARY  
12 COMMITTEE, AND THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
13 COMMITTEE.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
15 as follows:

16 **Article – Economic Development**

17 **SUBTITLE 19. CANNABIS BUSINESS ASSISTANCE FUND.**

18 **5-1901.**

19 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “FUND” MEANS THE CANNABIS BUSINESS  
20 ASSISTANCE FUND.

21 (B) THERE IS A CANNABIS BUSINESS ASSISTANCE FUND.

22 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO ASSIST SMALL, MINORITY-OWNED,  
23 AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES ENTERING THE ADULT-USE CANNABIS INDUSTRY.

24 (D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

25 (E) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT  
26 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

27 (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,  
28 AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

29 (F) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

1           **(1) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND; AND**

2           **(2) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR**  
3 **THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

4           **(G) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE FUND**  
5 **MAY BE USED ONLY FOR:**

6                   **(I) GRANTS OR LOANS TO SMALL, MINORITY-OWNED, OR**  
7 **WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES FOR:**

8                           **1. LICENSE APPLICATION ASSISTANCE FOR**  
9 **PARTICIPATION IN THE ADULT-USE CANNABIS INDUSTRY;**

10                           **2. ASSISTANCE WITH THE OPERATING OR CAPITAL**  
11 **EXPENSES OF A BUSINESS PARTICIPATING IN THE ADULT-USE CANNABIS INDUSTRY;**  
12 **OR**

13                           **3. TARGETED TRAINING TO SUPPORT PARTICIPATION IN**  
14 **THE ADULT-USE CANNABIS INDUSTRY; AND**

15                   **(II) GRANTS TO HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND**  
16 **UNIVERSITIES FOR CANNABIS-RELATED PROGRAMS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**  
17 **ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING INCUBATORS, TO TRAIN AND ASSIST SMALL,**  
18 **MINORITY, AND WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS AND ENTREPRENEURS SEEKING TO**  
19 **BECOME LICENSED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ADULT-USE CANNABIS INDUSTRY.**

20           **(2) THE DEPARTMENT:**

21                   **(I) SHALL PRIORITIZE AWARDING GRANTS AND LOANS IN**  
22 **ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO POPULATIONS THAT**  
23 **HAVE BEEN HISTORICALLY DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY THE**  
24 **ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS CRIMINALIZING THE USE OF CANNABIS;**

25                   **(II) MAY AWARD GRANTS OR LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE**  
26 **BEEN CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF A LAW CRIMINALIZING THE USE OF CANNABIS;**  
27 **AND**

28                   **(III) MAY NOT AWARD GRANTS OR LOANS TO SMALL, MINORITY,**  
29 **AND WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS AND ENTREPRENEURS WITH HIGH PERSONAL NET**  
30 **WORTH.**

1           **(3) IN ORDER TO AWARD GRANTS AND LOANS IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
2 **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP**  
3 **PARTNERSHIPS WITH:**

4           **(I) TRADITIONAL MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS IN THE**  
5 **STATE AND SURROUNDING JURISDICTIONS, INCLUDING HISTORICALLY BLACK**  
6 **COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES;**

7           **(II) TRADE ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING MINORITY AND**  
8 **WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES; AND**

9           **(III) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF SMALL, MINORITY, AND**  
10 **WOMEN BUSINESS AFFAIRS.**

11           **(H) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND**  
12 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

13           **(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO**  
14 **THE FUND.**

15           **(I) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE**  
16 **WITH THE STATE BUDGET.**

17                           **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

18           6–226.

19           (a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless  
20 inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the  
21 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the  
22 State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to  
23 receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General  
24 Fund of the State.

25                           (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply  
26 to the following funds:

27                           144. the Health Equity Resource Community Reserve Fund;

28 [and]

29                           145. the Access to Counsel in Evictions Special Fund;

30                           **146. THE CANNABIS BUSINESS ASSISTANCE FUND; AND**

31                           **147. THE CANNABIS PUBLIC HEALTH FUND.**

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
2 as follows:

3 **Article – Criminal Law**

4 5–601.

5 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this title, a person may not:

6 (1) possess or administer to another a controlled dangerous substance,  
7 unless obtained directly or by prescription or order from an authorized provider acting in  
8 the course of professional practice; or

9 (2) obtain or attempt to obtain a controlled dangerous substance, or  
10 procure or attempt to procure the administration of a controlled dangerous substance by:

11 (i) fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or subterfuge;

12 (ii) the counterfeiting or alteration of a prescription or a written  
13 order;

14 (iii) the concealment of a material fact;

15 (iv) the use of a false name or address;

16 (v) falsely assuming the title of or representing to be a  
17 manufacturer, distributor, or authorized provider; or

18 (vi) making, issuing, or presenting a false or counterfeit prescription  
19 or written order.

20 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of this subsection, a  
21 person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to:

22 (i) for a first conviction, imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or a fine  
23 not exceeding \$5,000 or both;

24 (ii) for a second or third conviction, imprisonment not exceeding 18  
25 months or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both; or

26 (iii) for a fourth or subsequent conviction, imprisonment not  
27 exceeding 2 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

28 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, a  
29 person whose violation of this section involves the use or possession of [marijuana]



1 CANNABIS is guilty of a misdemeanor of possession of [marijuana] CANNABIS and is  
2 subject to imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both.

3 (ii) 1. A [first] finding of guilt under this section involving the  
4 use or possession of [less than 10 grams of marijuana] **1.5 OUNCES OR LESS OF**  
5 CANNABIS is a civil offense punishable by a fine not exceeding \$100.

6 2. A [second] finding of guilt under this section involving the  
7 use or possession of [less than 10 grams of marijuana] **MORE THAN 1.5 OUNCES BUT NOT**  
8 **MORE THAN 2.5 OUNCES OF CANNABIS** is a civil offense punishable by a fine not  
9 exceeding \$250.

10 3. [A third or subsequent finding of guilt under this section  
11 involving the use or possession of less than 10 grams of marijuana is a civil offense  
12 punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500.

13 4.] A. In addition to a fine, a court shall order a person  
14 under the age of 21 years who commits a violation punishable under subparagraph 1[,  
15 2, or 3] **OR 2** of this subparagraph to attend a drug education program approved by the  
16 Maryland Department of Health, refer the person to an assessment for substance abuse  
17 disorder, and refer the person to substance abuse treatment, if necessary.

18 B. [In addition to a fine, a court shall order a person at least  
19 21 years old who commits a violation punishable under subparagraph 3 of this  
20 subparagraph to attend a drug education program approved by the Maryland Department  
21 of Health, refer the person to an assessment for substance abuse disorder, and refer the  
22 person to substance abuse treatment, if necessary.

23 C.] A court that orders a person to a drug education program  
24 or substance abuse assessment or treatment under this subparagraph may hold the  
25 case sub curia pending receipt of proof of completion of the program, assessment, or  
26 treatment.

27 (d) The provisions of subsection (c)(2)(ii) of this section [making the possession of  
28 marijuana a civil offense] may not be construed to affect the laws relating to:

29 (1) operating a vehicle or vessel while under the influence of or while  
30 impaired by a controlled dangerous substance; or

31 (2) seizure and forfeiture.

32 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
33 as follows:

34 **Article – Criminal Law**

1 5-601.

2 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this title, a person may not:

3 (1) possess or administer to another a controlled dangerous substance,  
4 unless:

5 (I) obtained directly or by prescription or order from an authorized  
6 provider acting in the course of professional practice; or

7 (II) **THE CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE IS CANNABIS,**  
8 **THE INDIVIDUAL IS AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD, AND THE AMOUNT POSSESSED IS 1.5**  
9 **OUNCES OR LESS; OR**

10 (2) obtain or attempt to obtain a controlled dangerous substance, or  
11 procure or attempt to procure the administration of a controlled dangerous substance by:

12 (i) fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or subterfuge;

13 (ii) the counterfeiting or alteration of a prescription or a written  
14 order;

15 (iii) the concealment of a material fact;

16 (iv) the use of a false name or address;

17 (v) falsely assuming the title of or representing to be a  
18 manufacturer, distributor, or authorized provider; or

19 (vi) making, issuing, or presenting a false or counterfeit prescription  
20 or written order.

21 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of this subsection, a  
22 person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to:

23 (i) for a first conviction, imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or a fine  
24 not exceeding \$5,000 or both;

25 (ii) for a second or third conviction, imprisonment not exceeding 18  
26 months or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both; or

27 (iii) for a fourth or subsequent conviction, imprisonment not  
28 exceeding 2 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

29 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, a  
30 person whose violation of this section involves the use or possession of [marijuana]

1 CANNABIS is guilty of a misdemeanor of possession of [marijuana] CANNABIS and is  
2 subject to imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both.

3 (ii) 1. A [first] finding of guilt under this section involving the  
4 use or possession of [less than 10 grams of marijuana] **1.5 OUNCES OR LESS OF**  
5 **CANNABIS BY A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS** is a civil offense punishable by  
6 a fine not exceeding \$100.

7 2. A [second] finding of guilt under this section involving the  
8 use or possession of [less than 10 grams of marijuana] **MORE THAN 1.5 OUNCES BUT NOT**  
9 **MORE THAN 2.5 OUNCES OF CANNABIS** is a civil offense punishable by a fine not  
10 exceeding \$250.

11 3. [A third or subsequent finding of guilt under this section  
12 involving the use or possession of less than 10 grams of marijuana is a civil offense  
13 punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500.

14 4.] A. In addition to a fine, a court shall order a person  
15 under the age of 21 years who commits a violation punishable under subsubparagraph 1[,  
16 2, or 3] **OR 2** of this subparagraph to attend a drug education program approved by the  
17 Maryland Department of Health, refer the person to an assessment for substance abuse  
18 disorder, and refer the person to substance abuse treatment, if necessary.

19 B. [In addition to a fine, a court shall order a person at least  
20 21 years old who commits a violation punishable under subsubparagraph 3 of this  
21 subparagraph to attend a drug education program approved by the Maryland Department  
22 of Health, refer the person to an assessment for substance abuse disorder, and refer the  
23 person to substance abuse treatment, if necessary.

24 C.] A court that orders a person to a drug education program  
25 or substance abuse assessment or treatment under this subsubparagraph may hold the  
26 case sub curia pending receipt of proof of completion of the program, assessment, or  
27 treatment.

28 (4) [A violation of this section involving the] **THE** smoking of [marijuana]  
29 **CANNABIS** in a public place is a civil offense punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500.

30 (d) The provisions of subsection (c)(2)(ii) of this section [making the possession of  
31 marijuana a civil offense] may not be construed to affect the laws relating to:

32 (1) operating a vehicle or vessel while under the influence of or while  
33 impaired by a controlled dangerous substance; or

34 (2) seizure and forfeiture.

1 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
2 as follows:

3 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

4 3–8A–01.

5 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated, unless the  
6 context of their use indicates otherwise.

7 (dd) “Violation” means a violation for which a citation is issued under:

8 (1) § 5–601 of the Criminal Law Article involving the use or possession of  
9 [less than 10 grams of marijuana] **CANNABIS**;

10 (2) § 10–113, § 10–114, § 10–115, or § 10–116 of the Criminal Law Article;

11 (3) § 10–132 of the Criminal Law Article;

12 (4) § 10–136 of the Criminal Law Article; or

13 (5) § 26–103 of the Education Article.

14 3–8A–33.

15 (a) A law enforcement officer authorized to make arrests shall issue a citation to  
16 a child if the officer has probable cause to believe that the child is violating:

17 (1) § 5–601 of the Criminal Law Article involving the use or possession of  
18 [less than 10 grams of marijuana] **CANNABIS**;

19 (2) § 10–113, § 10–114, § 10–115, or § 10–116 of the Criminal Law Article;

20 (3) § 10–132 of the Criminal Law Article;

21 (4) § 10–136 of the Criminal Law Article; or

22 (5) § 26–103 of the Education Article.

23 **Article – Criminal Law**

24 5–101.

25 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

26 [(r) (1) “Marijuana” means:

1 (i) all parts of any plant of the genus Cannabis, whether or not the  
2 plant is growing;

3 (ii) the seeds of the plant;

4 (iii) the resin extracted from the plant; and

5 (iv) each compound, manufactured product, salt, derivative, mixture,  
6 or preparation of the plant, its seeds, or its resin.

7 (2) "Marijuana" does not include:

8 (i) the mature stalks of the plant;

9 (ii) fiber produced from the mature stalks;

10 (iii) oil or cake made from the seeds of the plant;

11 (iv) except for resin, any other compound, manufactured product,  
12 salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the mature stalks, fiber, oil, or cake;

13 (v) the sterilized seed of the plant that is incapable of germination;  
14 or

15 (vi) hemp as defined in § 14–101 of the Agriculture Article.]

16 (R) (1) "CANNABIS" MEANS THE PLANT CANNABIS SATIVA L. AND ANY  
17 PART OF THE PLANT, INCLUDING ALL DERIVATIVES, EXTRACTS, CANNABINOIDS,  
18 ISOMERS, ACIDS, SALTS, AND SALTS OF ISOMERS, WHETHER GROWING OR NOT, WITH  
19 A DELTA-9-TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL CONCENTRATION GREATER THAN 0.3% ON A  
20 DRY WEIGHT BASIS.

21 (2) "CANNABIS" DOES NOT INCLUDE HEMP AS DEFINED IN § 14–101  
22 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE.

23 5–601.1.

24 (a) A police officer shall issue a citation to a person who the police officer has  
25 probable cause to believe has committed a violation of § 5–601 of this part involving the use  
26 or possession of [less than 10 grams of marijuana] **2.5 OUNCES OR LESS OF CANNABIS**.

27 (b) (1) A violation of § 5–601 of this part involving the use or possession of [less  
28 than 10 grams of marijuana] **2.5 OUNCES OR LESS OF CANNABIS** is a civil offense.

29 (2) Adjudication of a violation under § 5–601 of this part involving the use  
30 or possession of [less than 10 grams of marijuana] **2.5 OUNCES OR LESS OF CANNABIS**:

1 (i) is not a criminal conviction for any purpose; and

2 (ii) does not impose any of the civil disabilities that may result from  
3 a criminal conviction.

4 (c) (1) A citation issued for a violation of § 5–601 of this part involving the use  
5 or possession of [less than 10 grams of marijuana] **2.5 OUNCES OR LESS OF CANNABIS**  
6 shall be signed by the police officer who issues the citation and shall contain:

7 (i) the name, address, and date of birth of the person charged;

8 (ii) the date and time that the violation occurred;

9 (iii) the location at which the violation occurred;

10 (iv) the fine that may be imposed;

11 (v) a notice stating that prepayment of the fine is allowed, except as  
12 provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection; and

13 (vi) a notice in boldface type that states that the person shall:

14 1. pay the full amount of the preset fine; or

15 2. request a trial date at the date, time, and place established  
16 by the District Court by writ or trial notice.

17 (2) [(i)] If a citation for a violation of § 5–601 of this part involving the  
18 use or possession of [less than 10 grams of marijuana] **2.5 OUNCES OR LESS OF**  
19 **CANNABIS** is issued to a person under the age of 21 years, the court shall summon the  
20 person for trial.

21 [(ii) If the court finds that a person at least 21 years old who has been  
22 issued a citation under this section has at least twice previously been found guilty under §  
23 5–601 of this part involving the use or possession of less than 10 grams of marijuana, the  
24 court shall summon the person for trial.]

25 (d) The form of the citation shall be uniform throughout the State and shall be  
26 prescribed by the District Court.

27 (e) (1) The Chief Judge of the District Court shall establish a schedule for the  
28 prepayment of the fine.

29 (2) Prepayment of a fine shall be considered a plea of guilty to a Code  
30 violation.

1 (3) A person described in subsection (c)(2) of this section may not prepay  
2 the fine.

3 (f) (1) A person may request a trial by sending a request for trial to the District  
4 Court in the jurisdiction where the citation was issued within 30 days of the issuance of the  
5 citation.

6 (2) If a person other than a person described in subsection (c)(2) of this  
7 section does not request a trial or prepay the fine within 30 days of the issuance of the  
8 citation, the court may impose the maximum fine and costs against the person and find the  
9 person is guilty of a Code violation [for purposes of subsection (c)(2)(ii) of this section].

10 (g) The issuing jurisdiction shall forward a copy of the citation and a request for  
11 trial to the District Court in the district having venue.

12 (h) (1) The failure of a defendant to respond to a summons described in  
13 subsection (c)(2) of this section shall be governed by § 5–212 of the Criminal Procedure  
14 Article.

15 (2) If a person at least 21 years old fails to appear after having requested  
16 a trial, the court may impose the maximum fine and costs against the person and find the  
17 person is guilty of a Code violation [for purposes of subsection (c)(2)(ii) of this section].

18 (i) In any proceeding for a Code violation under § 5–601 of this part involving the  
19 use or possession of [less than 10 grams of marijuana] **2.5 OUNCES OR LESS OF**  
20 **CANNABIS:**

21 (1) the State has the burden to prove the guilt of the defendant by a  
22 preponderance of the evidence;

23 (2) the court shall apply the evidentiary standards as prescribed by law or  
24 rule for the trial of a criminal case;

25 (3) the court shall ensure that the defendant has received a copy of the  
26 charges against the defendant and that the defendant understands those charges;

27 (4) the defendant is entitled to cross-examine all witnesses who appear  
28 against the defendant, to produce evidence or witnesses on behalf of the defendant, and to  
29 testify on the defendant's own behalf, if the defendant chooses to do so;

30 (5) the defendant is entitled to be represented by counsel of the defendant's  
31 choice and at the expense of the defendant; and

32 (6) the defendant may enter a plea of guilty or not guilty, and the verdict  
33 of the court in the case shall be:

- 1 (i) guilty of a Code violation;
- 2 (ii) not guilty of a Code violation; or
- 3 (iii) probation before judgment, imposed by the court in the same  
4 manner and to the same extent as is allowed by law in the trial of a criminal case.
- 5 (j) (1) The defendant is liable for the costs of the proceedings in the District  
6 Court.
- 7 (2) The court costs in a Code violation case under § 5–601 of this part  
8 involving the use or possession of [less than 10 grams of marijuana] **2.5 OUNCES OR LESS**  
9 **OF CANNABIS** in which costs are imposed are \$5.
- 10 (k) (1) The State’s Attorney for any county may prosecute a Code violation  
11 under § 5–601 of this part involving the use or possession of [less than 10 grams of  
12 marijuana] **2.5 OUNCES OR LESS OF CANNABIS** in the same manner as prosecution of a  
13 violation of the criminal laws of the State.
- 14 (2) In a Code violation case under § 5–601 of this part involving the use or  
15 possession of [less than 10 grams of marijuana] **2.5 OUNCES OR LESS OF CANNABIS**, the  
16 State’s Attorney may:
- 17 (i) enter a nolle prosequi or move to place the case on the stet docket;  
18 and
- 19 (ii) exercise authority in the same manner as prescribed by law for  
20 violation of the criminal laws of the State.
- 21 (l) A person issued a citation for a violation of § 5–601 of this part involving the  
22 use or possession of [less than 10 grams of marijuana] **2.5 OUNCES OR LESS OF**  
23 **CANNABIS** who is under the age of 18 years shall be subject to the procedures and  
24 dispositions provided in Title 3, Subtitle 8A of the Courts Article.
- 25 (m) A citation for a violation of § 5–601 of this part involving the use or possession  
26 of [less than 10 grams of marijuana] **2.5 OUNCES OR LESS OF CANNABIS** and the official  
27 record of a court regarding the citation are not subject to public inspection and may not be  
28 included on the public website maintained by the Maryland Judiciary if:
- 29 (1) the defendant has prepaid the fine;
- 30 (2) the defendant has pled guilty to or been found guilty of the Code  
31 violation and has fully paid the fine and costs imposed for the violation;
- 32 (3) the defendant has received a probation before judgment and has fully  
33 paid the fine and completed any terms imposed by the court;



1 (4) the case has been removed from the stet docket after the defendant fully  
2 paid the fine and completed any terms imposed by the court;

3 (5) the State has entered a nolle prosequi;

4 (6) the defendant has been found not guilty of the charge; or

5 (7) the charge has been dismissed.

6 5-602.

7 (A) Except as otherwise provided in this title, a person may not:

8 (1) distribute or dispense a controlled dangerous substance; or

9 (2) possess a controlled dangerous substance **OTHER THAN CANNABIS** in  
10 sufficient quantity reasonably to indicate under all circumstances an intent to distribute or  
11 dispense a controlled dangerous substance.

12 (B) (1) **EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS TITLE, A PERSON MAY**  
13 **NOT POSSESS CANNABIS IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY REASONABLY TO INDICATE**  
14 **UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES AN INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE OR DISPENSE CANNABIS.**

15 (2) **POSSESSION OF 2.5 OUNCES OR LESS OF CANNABIS WITHOUT**  
16 **OTHER EVIDENCE OF AN INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE OR DISPENSE DOES NOT**  
17 **CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

18 5-603.

19 (A) Except as otherwise provided in this title, a person may not manufacture a  
20 controlled dangerous substance **OTHER THAN CANNABIS**, or manufacture, distribute, or  
21 possess a machine, equipment, instrument, implement, device, or a combination of them  
22 that is adapted to produce a controlled dangerous substance **OTHER THAN CANNABIS**  
23 under circumstances that reasonably indicate an intent to use it to produce, sell, or dispense  
24 a controlled dangerous substance **OTHER THAN CANNABIS** in violation of this title.

25 (B) **EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS TITLE, A PERSON MAY NOT**  
26 **CULTIVATE OR GROW CANNABIS OR MANUFACTURE A CANNABIS PRODUCT, OR**  
27 **MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTE, OR POSSESS A MACHINE, EQUIPMENT, AN**  
28 **INSTRUMENT, AN IMPLEMENT, A DEVICE, OR A COMBINATION OF THEM THAT IS**  
29 **ADAPTED TO PRODUCE CANNABIS OR A CANNABIS PRODUCT UNDER**  
30 **CIRCUMSTANCES THAT REASONABLY INDICATE AN INTENT TO USE IT TO PRODUCE,**  
31 **SELL, OR DISPENSE CANNABIS OR A CANNABIS PRODUCT IN VIOLATION OF THIS**  
32 **TITLE.**

1 5-607.

2 (a) (1) Except as provided in PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND §§  
3 5-608 and 5-609 of this subtitle, a person who violates a provision of §§ 5-602 through  
4 5-606 of this subtitle is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not  
5 exceeding 5 years or a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or both.

6 (2) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES § 5-602(B)(1) OR § 5-603(B) OF THIS  
7 SUBTITLE IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO  
8 IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 3 YEARS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000 OR  
9 BOTH.

10 (b) A person convicted under this section is not prohibited from participating in a  
11 drug treatment program under § 8-507 of the Health – General Article because of the  
12 length of the sentence.

### 13 Article – Criminal Procedure

14 4-101.

15 (c) (1) (i) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, in addition to any  
16 other law allowing a crime to be charged by citation, a police officer shall charge by citation  
17 for:

18 1. any misdemeanor or local ordinance violation that does  
19 not carry a penalty of imprisonment;

20 2. any other misdemeanor or local ordinance violation not  
21 involving serious injury or an immediate health risk for which the maximum penalty of  
22 imprisonment is 90 days or less, except:

23 A. failure to comply with a peace order under § 3-1508 of the  
24 Courts Article;

25 B. failure to comply with a protective order under § 4-509 of  
26 the Family Law Article;

27 C. violation of a condition of pretrial or posttrial release  
28 under § 5-213.1 of this article;

29 D. possession of an electronic control device after conviction  
30 of a drug felony or crime of violence under § 4-109(b) of the Criminal Law Article;

31 E. violation of an out-of-state domestic violence order under  
32 § 4-508.1 of the Family Law Article; or

1 F. abuse or neglect of an animal under § 10–604 of the  
2 Criminal Law Article; or

3 3. possession of [marijuana] CANNABIS under § 5–601 of the  
4 Criminal Law Article.

5 (ii) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, in addition to any  
6 other law allowing a crime to be charged by citation, a police officer may charge by citation  
7 for:

8 1. sale of an alcoholic beverage to an underage drinker or  
9 intoxicated person under § 6–304, § 6–307, § 6–308, or § 6–309 of the Alcoholic Beverages  
10 Article;

11 2. malicious destruction of property under § 6–301 of the  
12 Criminal Law Article, if the amount of damage to the property is less than \$500;

13 3. misdemeanor theft under § 7–104(g)(2) of the Criminal  
14 Law Article; [or]

15 4. possession of a controlled dangerous substance other than  
16 [marijuana] CANNABIS under § 5–601 of the Criminal Law Article;

17 **5. POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE CANNABIS**  
18 **UNDER § 5–602(B)(1) OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE; OR**

19 **6. GROWING OR MANUFACTURING CANNABIS OR A**  
20 **CANNABIS PRODUCT UNDER § 5–603(B) OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE.**

21 (2) A police officer may charge a defendant by citation only if:

22 (i) the officer is satisfied with the defendant’s evidence of identity;

23 (ii) the officer reasonably believes that the defendant will comply  
24 with the citation;

25 (iii) the officer reasonably believes that the failure to charge on a  
26 statement of charges will not pose a threat to public safety;

27 (iv) the defendant is not subject to arrest:

28 1. for an alleged misdemeanor involving serious injury or  
29 immediate health risk or an alleged felony arising out of the same incident; or

30 2. based on an outstanding arrest warrant; and

1 (v) the defendant complies with all lawful orders by the officer.

2 (3) A police officer who has grounds to make a warrantless arrest for an  
3 offense that may be charged by citation under this subsection may:

4 (i) issue a citation in lieu of making the arrest; or

5 (ii) make the arrest and subsequently issue a citation in lieu of  
6 continued custody.

7 10–101.

8 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

9 (d) “Expunge” means to remove information from public inspection in accordance  
10 with this subtitle.

11 (e) [“Expungement”] **EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBTITLE,**  
12 **“EXPUNGEMENT”** with respect to a court record or a police record means removal from  
13 public inspection:

14 (1) by obliteration;

15 (2) by removal to a separate secure area to which persons who do not have  
16 a legitimate reason for access are denied access; or

17 (3) if access to a court record or police record can be obtained only by  
18 reference to another court record or police record, by the expungement of it or the part of it  
19 that provides access.

20 10–105.

21 (a) A person who has been charged with the commission of a crime, including a  
22 violation of the Transportation Article for which a term of imprisonment may be imposed,  
23 or who has been charged with a civil offense or infraction, except a juvenile offense, may  
24 file a petition listing relevant facts for expungement of a police record, court record, or other  
25 record maintained by the State or a political subdivision of the State if:

26 (12) the person was convicted of possession of [marijuana] **CANNABIS** under  
27 § 5–601 of the Criminal Law Article; or

28 (c) (8) A petition for expungement based on the conviction of a crime under  
29 subsection (a)(12) of this section may not be filed [within 4 years after the conviction or]  
30 **BEFORE** satisfactory completion of the sentence, including probation, that was imposed for  
31 the conviction[, whichever is later].

1 **10-105.3.**

2 (A) A PERSON INCARCERATED AFTER HAVING BEEN CONVICTED OF  
3 POSSESSION OF CANNABIS UNDER § 5-601 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE MAY  
4 PRESENT AN APPLICATION FOR RESENTENCING TO THE COURT THAT SENTENCED  
5 THE PERSON.

6 (B) THE COURT SHALL GRANT THE APPLICATION AND RESENTENCE THE  
7 PERSON TO TIME SERVED.

8 (C) IF THE PERSON IS NOT SERVING A CONCURRENT OR CONSECUTIVE  
9 SENTENCE FOR ANOTHER CRIME, THE PERSON SHALL BE RELEASED FROM  
10 INCARCERATION.

11 **10-107.**

12 (a) (1) In this subtitle, if two or more charges, other than one for a minor traffic  
13 violation **OR POSSESSION OF CANNABIS UNDER § 5-601 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW**  
14 **ARTICLE**, arise from the same incident, transaction, or set of facts, they are considered to  
15 be a unit.

16 (2) A charge for a minor traffic violation **OR POSSESSION OF CANNABIS**  
17 **UNDER § 5-601 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE** that arises from the same incident,  
18 transaction, or set of facts as a charge in the unit is not a part of the unit.

19 (b) (1) If a person is not entitled to expungement of one charge or conviction in  
20 a unit, the person is not entitled to expungement of any other charge or conviction in the  
21 unit.

22 (2) The disposition of a charge for a minor traffic violation that arises from  
23 the same incident, transaction, or set of facts as a charge in the unit does not affect any  
24 right to expungement of a charge or conviction in the unit.

25 **10-110.**

26 (a) A person may file a petition listing relevant facts for expungement of a police  
27 record, court record, or other record maintained by the State or a political subdivision of  
28 the State if the person is convicted of:

29 (1) a misdemeanor that is a violation of:

30 (i) § 6-320 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article;

- 1 (ii) an offense listed in § 17–613(a) of the Business Occupations and  
2 Professions Article;
- 3 (iii) § 5–712, § 19–304, § 19–308, or Title 5, Subtitle 6 or Subtitle 9 of  
4 the Business Regulation Article;
- 5 (iv) § 3–1508 or § 10–402 of the Courts Article;
- 6 (v) § 14–1915, § 14–2902, or § 14–2903 of the Commercial Law  
7 Article;
- 8 (vi) § 5–211 of this article;
- 9 (vii) § 3–203 or § 3–808 of the Criminal Law Article;
- 10 (viii) § 5–601 not involving the use or possession of [marijuana]  
11 **CANNABIS, § 5–602(B)**, § 5–618, § 5–619, § 5–620, § 5–703, § 5–708, or §  
12 5–902 of the Criminal Law Article;
- 13 (ix) § 6–105, § 6–108, § 6–205 (fourth degree burglary), § 6–206, §  
14 6–303, § 6–306, § 6–307, § 6–402, or § 6–503 of the Criminal Law Article;
- 15 (x) § 7–104, § 7–203, § 7–205, § 7–304, § 7–308, or § 7–309 of the  
16 Criminal Law Article;
- 17 (xi) § 8–103, § 8–206, § 8–401, § 8–402, § 8–404, § 8–406, § 8–408, §  
18 8–503, § 8–521, § 8–523, or § 8–904 of the Criminal Law Article;
- 19 (xii) § 9–204, § 9–205, § 9–503, or § 9–506 of the Criminal Law Article;
- 20 (xiii) § 10–110, § 10–201, § 10–402, § 10–404, or § 10–502 of the  
21 Criminal Law Article;
- 22 (xiv) § 11–303, § 11–306, or § 11–307 of the Criminal Law Article;
- 23 (xv) § 12–102, § 12–103, § 12–104, § 12–105, § 12–109, § 12–203, §  
24 12–204, § 12–205, or § 12–302 of the Criminal Law Article;
- 25 (xvi) § 13–401, § 13–602, or § 16–201 of the Election Law Article;
- 26 (xvii) § 4–509 of the Family Law Article;
- 27 (xviii) § 18–215 of the Health – General Article;
- 28 (xix) § 4–411 or § 4–2005 of the Housing and Community Development  
29 Article;

1 (xx) § 27-403, § 27-404, § 27-405, § 27-406, § 27-406.1, § 27-407, §  
2 27-407.1, or § 27-407.2 of the Insurance Article;

3 (xxi) § 8-725.4, § 8-725.5, § 8-725.6, § 8-725.7, § 8-726, § 8-726.1, §  
4 8-727.1, or § 8-738.2 of the Natural Resources Article or any prohibited act related to speed  
5 limits for personal watercraft;

6 (xxii) § 5-307, § 5-308, § 6-602, § 7-402, or § 14-114 of the Public  
7 Safety Article;

8 (xxiii) § 7-318.1, § 7-509, or § 10-507 of the Real Property Article;

9 (xxiv) § 9-124 of the State Government Article;

10 (xxv) § 13-1001, § 13-1004, § 13-1007, or § 13-1024 of the Tax –  
11 General Article;

12 (xxvi) § 16-303 of the Transportation Article; or

13 (xxvii) the common law offenses of affray, rioting, criminal contempt,  
14 battery, or hindering;

15 (2) a felony that is a violation of:

16 (i) § 7-104 of the Criminal Law Article;

17 (ii) the prohibition against possession with intent to distribute a  
18 controlled dangerous substance under ~~§ 5-602(2)~~ **§ 5-602** of the Criminal Law Article; or

19 (iii) § 6-202(a), § 6-203, or § 6-204 of the Criminal Law Article; or

20 (3) an attempt, a conspiracy, or a solicitation of any offense listed in item  
21 (1) or (2) of this subsection.

22 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) **[and]**, (3), **AND (4)** of this  
23 subsection, a petition for expungement under this section may not be filed earlier than 10  
24 years after the person satisfies the sentence or sentences imposed for all convictions for  
25 which expungement is requested, including parole, probation, or mandatory supervision.

26 (2) A petition for expungement for a violation of § 3-203 of the Criminal  
27 Law Article, common law battery, or for an offense classified as a domestically related crime  
28 under § 6-233 of this article may not be filed earlier than 15 years after the person satisfies  
29 the sentence or sentences imposed for all convictions for which expungement is requested,  
30 including parole, probation, or mandatory supervision.

31 (3) **[A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS**  
32 **SUBSECTION**, A petition for expungement of a felony may not be filed earlier than 15 years

1 after the person satisfies the sentence or sentences imposed for all convictions for which  
2 expungement is requested, including parole, probation, or mandatory supervision.

3 **(4) A PETITION FOR EXPUNGEMENT OF A CONVICTION OF**  
4 **POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE CANNABIS UNDER § 5-602 OF THE**  
5 **CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE MAY NOT BE FILED EARLIER THAN 4 YEARS AFTER THE**  
6 **PERSON SATISFIES THE SENTENCE OR SENTENCES IMPOSED FOR ALL CONVICTIONS**  
7 **FOR WHICH EXPUNGEMENT IS REQUESTED, INCLUDING PAROLE, PROBATION, OR**  
8 **MANDATORY SUPERVISION.**

9 10-111.

10 The Maryland Judiciary Case Search may not in any way refer to the existence of a  
11 [District Court] criminal case in which:

12 (1) possession of [marijuana] CANNABIS under § 5-601 of the Criminal  
13 Law Article is the only charge in the case; and

14 (2) the charge was disposed of before [October 1, 2014] **JULY 1, 2023.**

15 **10-112.**

16 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “EXPUNGE” MEANS TO REMOVE ALL REFERENCES TO**  
17 **A SPECIFIED CRIMINAL CASE FROM THE CENTRAL REPOSITORY.**

18 **(B) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2024, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
19 **AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES SHALL EXPUNGE ALL CASES IN WHICH:**

20 **(1) POSSESSION OF CANNABIS UNDER § 5-601 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW**  
21 **ARTICLE IS THE ONLY CHARGE IN THE CASE; AND**

22 **(2) THE CHARGE WAS ISSUED BEFORE JULY 1, 2023.**

23 **Article – Health – General**

24 **SUBTITLE 45. CANNABIS PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

25 **13-4501.**

26 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
27 **INDICATED.**

28 **(B) “ADVISORY COUNCIL” MEANS THE CANNABIS PUBLIC HEALTH**  
29 **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**



1 (C) "FUND" MEANS THE CANNABIS PUBLIC HEALTH FUND.

2 13-4502.

3 (A) THERE IS A CANNABIS PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL.

4 (B) THE ADVISORY COUNCIL CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

5 (1) THE SECRETARY, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

6 (2) THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, OR THE  
7 DEPUTY SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

8 (3) THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, OR THE SECRETARY'S  
9 DESIGNEE;

10 (4) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATALIE M. LAPRADE  
11 MEDICAL CANNABIS COMMISSION, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

12 (5) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE STATE  
13 SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE; AND

14 (6) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

15 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
16 CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES;

17 (II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A HISTORICALLY BLACK  
18 COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY;

19 (III) ONE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WITH EXPERIENCE IN  
20 CANNABIS;

21 (IV) ONE PHARMACIST LICENSED IN THE STATE;

22 (V) ONE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WITH EXPERTISE IN  
23 SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT AND RECOVERY;

24 (VI) ONE INDIVIDUAL WITH EXPERTISE IN CANNABIS USE  
25 DISORDER;

1 (VII) ONE ACADEMIC RESEARCHER WITH EXPERTISE IN  
2 CANNABIS LAW AND POLICY;

3 (VIII) ONE INDIVIDUAL WITH AT LEAST 5 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE  
4 IN HEALTH OR SOCIAL EQUITY;

5 (IX) ONE PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WITH CANNABIS  
6 EXPERIENCE; AND

7 (X) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LABORATORY THAT TESTS  
8 CANNABIS.

9 (C) (1) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE AND CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL  
10 AND STATE LAW, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL REFLECT  
11 THE GENDER, ETHNIC, AND RACIAL DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.

12 (2) THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL INCLUDE  
13 RESIDENTS OF RURAL AND URBAN REGIONS OF THE STATE.

14 (D) A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL FILE A FINANCIAL  
15 DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITH THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE  
16 WITH TITLE 5, SUBTITLE 6 OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS ARTICLE.

17 (E) (1) THE TERM OF AN APPOINTED MEMBER IS 4 YEARS.

18 (2) THE TERMS OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED AS  
19 REQUIRED BY THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR THE APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE  
20 ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JANUARY 1, 2023.

21 (3) AT THE END OF A TERM, AN APPOINTED MEMBER CONTINUES TO  
22 SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

23 (4) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES  
24 ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND  
25 QUALIFIES.

26 (5) AN APPOINTED MEMBER MAY NOT SERVE MORE THAN TWO  
27 CONSECUTIVE FULL TERMS.

28 13-4503.

29 (A) THE CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL BE ELECTED BY THE  
30 MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.

1           **(B) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS THEN SERVING ON THE ADVISORY**  
2 **COUNCIL IS A QUORUM.**

3           **(C) THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES EACH**  
4 **YEAR, AT THE TIMES AND PLACES THAT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL DETERMINES.**

5           **(D) THE ADVISORY COUNCIL MAY FORM WORKGROUPS TO ASSIST IN THE**  
6 **WORK OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

7           **(E) A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL:**

8                   **(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE**  
9 **ADVISORY COUNCIL; BUT**

10                   **(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE**  
11 **STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

12           **(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL**  
13 **ASSISTANCE FOR THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

14 **13-4504.**

15           **(A) THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS**  
16 **REGARDING:**

17                   **(1) THE PROMOTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND MITIGATION OF YOUTH**  
18 **USE OF, MISUSE OF, AND ADDICTION TO CANNABIS;**

19                   **(2) DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF DATA THAT MEASURES**  
20 **THE IMPACT OF CANNABIS CONSUMPTION AND LEGALIZATION;**

21                   **(3) THE IMPACT OF CANNABIS LEGALIZATION ON THE EDUCATION,**  
22 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, AND SOMATIC HEALTH OF INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE AGE OF**  
23 **21 YEARS;**

24                   **(4) INITIATIVES TO PREVENT CANNABIS USE BY INDIVIDUALS UNDER**  
25 **THE AGE OF 21 YEARS, INCLUDING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR USE IN SCHOOLS;**

26                   **(5) PUBLIC HEALTH CAMPAIGNS ON CANNABIS;**

27                   **(6) ADVERTISING, LABELING, PRODUCT TESTING, AND QUALITY**  
28 **CONTROL REQUIREMENTS;**

1           **(7) TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS RELATED TO CANNABIS**  
2 **USE; AND**

3           **(8) ANY OTHER ISSUES THAT ADVANCE PUBLIC HEALTH RELATED TO**  
4 **CANNABIS USE AND LEGALIZATION.**

5           **(B) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL**  
6 **CONSIDER ANY DATA COLLECTED BY THE STATE RELATED TO CANNABIS USE WHEN**  
7 **MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING DATA COLLECTED UNDER § 13-4401 OF**  
8 **THIS TITLE.**

9 **13-4505.**

10           **(A) THERE IS A CANNABIS PUBLIC HEALTH FUND.**

11           **(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO ADDRESS THE**  
12 **HEALTH EFFECTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LEGALIZATION OF ADULT-USE CANNABIS.**

13           **(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.**

14           **(D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT**  
15 **SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

16           **(2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,**  
17 **AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

18           **(E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

19           **(1) REVENUE DISTRIBUTED TO THE FUND BASED ON REVENUES**  
20 **FROM ADULT-USE CANNABIS;**

21           **(2) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;**  
22 **AND**

23           **(3) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR**  
24 **THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

25           **(F) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR:**

26           **(1) SUPPORTING THE ADVISORY COUNCIL IN PERFORMING ITS**  
27 **DUTIES;**

1           **(2) SUPPORTING DATA COLLECTION AND RESEARCH ON THE**  
2 **EFFECTS OF CANNABIS LEGALIZATION IN THE STATE;**

3           **(3) PROVIDING FUNDING FOR EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS**  
4 **CAMPAIGNS RELATED TO CANNABIS USE, INCLUDING FUNDING FOR EDUCATIONAL**  
5 **PROGRAMS TO BE USED IN SCHOOLS;**

6           **(4) SUPPORTING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER COUNSELING AND**  
7 **TREATMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS; AND**

8           **(5) TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT TO RECOGNIZE IMPAIRMENTS**  
9 **DUE TO CANNABIS.**

10          **(G) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND**  
11 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

12          **(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO**  
13 **THE FUND.**

14          **(H) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE**  
15 **WITH THE STATE BUDGET.**

16 **13-4506.**

17          **ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL**  
18 **REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN**  
19 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL**  
20 **ASSEMBLY.**

21 **24-501.**

22          (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

23          **(B) “CANNABIS” MEANS THE PLANT CANNABIS SATIVA L. AND ANY PART OF**  
24 **THE PLANT, INCLUDING ALL DERIVATIVES, EXTRACTS, CANNABINOIDS, ISOMERS,**  
25 **ACIDS, SALTS, AND SALTS OF ISOMERS, WHETHER GROWING OR NOT, WITH A**  
26 **DELTA-9-TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL CONCENTRATION GREATER THAN 0.3% ON A**  
27 **DRY WEIGHT BASIS.**

28          **[(b)] (C) “Employee” has the meaning stated in § 5-101 of the Labor and**  
29 **Employment Article.**

30          **[(c)] (D) “Employer” has the meaning stated in § 5-101 of the Labor and**  
31 **Employment Article.**



1 24-505.

2 This subtitle does not apply to:

3 (1) Private homes, residences, including residences used as a business or  
4 place of employment, unless being used by a person who is licensed or registered under  
5 Title 5, Subtitle 5 of the Family Law Article to provide child care, and private vehicles,  
6 unless being used for the public transportation of children, or as part of health care or child  
7 care transportation;

8 (2) A hotel or motel room rented to one or more guests as long as the total  
9 percent of hotel or motel rooms being so used does not exceed 25%;

10 (3) A retail tobacco business that is a sole proprietorship, limited liability  
11 company, corporation, partnership, or other enterprise, in which:

12 (i) The primary activity is the retail sale of tobacco products and  
13 accessories; and

14 (ii) The sale of other products is incidental;

15 (4) Any facility of a manufacturer, importer, wholesaler, or distributor of  
16 tobacco products or of any tobacco leaf dealer or processor in which employees of the  
17 manufacturer, importer, wholesaler, distributor, or processor work or congregate; or

18 (5) A research or educational laboratory for the purpose of conducting  
19 scientific research into the health effects of tobacco smoke.

20 24-507.

21 (a) The Department shall adopt regulations that prohibit environmental  
22 [tobacco] smoke in indoor areas open to the public.

23 (b) On or before September 30 of each year, the Department shall report, in  
24 accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on:

25 (1) The enforcement efforts of the Department to eliminate environmental  
26 [tobacco] smoke in indoor areas open to the public during the prior year; and

27 (2) The results of these enforcement efforts.

28 24-508.

29 (a) Subject to subsection (c) of this section and except as provided in subsection  
30 (d) of this section, a person who violates a provision of this subtitle or a regulation adopted  
31 under § 24-507(a) of this subtitle:

1           (1) For a first violation, shall be issued a written reprimand by the  
2 Secretary or the Secretary's designee;

3           (2) For a second violation, is subject to a civil penalty of \$100; and

4           (3) For each subsequent violation, is subject to a civil penalty not less than  
5 \$250.

6           (b) The Secretary may waive a penalty established under subsection (a) of this  
7 section, giving consideration to factors that include:

8           (1) The seriousness of the violation; and

9           (2) Any demonstrated good faith measures to comply with the provisions of  
10 this subtitle.

11           (c) (1) This subsection does not apply to an alleged violation of subsection (d)  
12 of this section.

13           (2) It is an affirmative defense to a complaint brought against a person for  
14 a violation of a provision of this subtitle or a regulation adopted under this subtitle that the  
15 person or an employee of the person:

16                   (i) Posted a "No Smoking" sign as required under § 24-506 of this  
17 subtitle;

18                   (ii) Removed all ashtrays and other smoking paraphernalia from all  
19 areas where smoking is prohibited; and

20                   (iii) If the violation occurred in a bar, tavern, or restaurant:

21                           1. Refused to seat or serve any individual who was smoking  
22 in a prohibited area; and

23                           2. If the individual continued to smoke after an initial  
24 warning, asked the individual to leave the establishment.

25           (d) An employer who discharges or discriminates against an employee because  
26 that employee has made a complaint, has given information to the Department in  
27 accordance with this subtitle, has caused to be instituted or is about to cause to be instituted  
28 a proceeding under this subtitle, or has testified or is about to testify in a proceeding under  
29 this subtitle, shall be deemed in violation of this subtitle and shall be subject to a civil  
30 penalty of at least \$2,000 but not more than \$10,000 for each violation.

31           (e) (1) An employee may not:



1 (i) Make a groundless or malicious complaint under this subtitle to  
2 the Secretary or an authorized representative of the Secretary;

3 (ii) In bad faith, bring an action under this subtitle; or

4 (iii) In bad faith, testify in an action under this subtitle or a  
5 proceeding that relates to the subject of this subtitle.

6 (2) The Secretary may bring an action for injunctive relief and damages  
7 against a person who violates the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection.

8 (f) A penalty collected by the Secretary under this section shall be paid to the  
9 Cigarette Restitution Fund established under § 7–317 of the State Finance and  
10 Procurement Article.

11 24–510.

12 Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to preempt a county or municipal  
13 government from enacting and enforcing more stringent measures to reduce involuntary  
14 exposure to environmental [tobacco] smoke.

15 SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the initial  
16 appointed members of the Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council shall expire as follows:

17 (1) three members in 2025;

18 (2) three members in 2026; and

19 (3) four members in 2027.

20 SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

21 (a) The certification agency designated by the Board of Public Works under §  
22 14–303(b) of the State Finance and Procurement Article, in consultation with the  
23 Governor’s Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs, the General Assembly,  
24 and the Office of the Attorney General, shall review the Business Disparities in the  
25 Maryland Market Area study completed on February 8, 2017, the Analysis of the Maryland  
26 Medical Cannabis Industry report completed on December 8, 2017, and the analysis of the  
27 industry report completed on January 17, 2018, to evaluate whether the data and analyses  
28 in the study and reports are sufficient to determine whether the enactment of remedial  
29 measures to assist minorities and women in the adult–use cannabis industry and market  
30 would comply with the requirements of City of Richmond v. J. A. Croson Co., 488 U.S. 469,  
31 and any subsequent federal or constitutional requirements.

32 (b) (1) If a determination is made that the data and analyses in the study and  
33 reports reviewed under subsection (a) of this section are sufficient to determine whether  
34 the enactment of remedial measures to assist minorities and women in the adult–use

1 cannabis industry and market would comply with the requirements of the Croson decision  
2 and any subsequent federal or constitutional requirements, the certification agency shall  
3 submit the findings of the review to the Legislative Policy Committee, in accordance with  
4 § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on or before July 1, 2022, so that the General  
5 Assembly may review the findings before the 2023 legislative session.

6 (2) (i) If a determination is made that the data and analyses in the  
7 study and reports reviewed under subsection (a) of this section are insufficient to determine  
8 whether the enactment of remedial measures to assist minorities and women in the  
9 adult–use cannabis industry and market would comply with the requirements of the Croson  
10 decision and any subsequent federal or constitutional requirements, the certification  
11 agency, in consultation with the Governor’s Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business  
12 Affairs, the General Assembly, and the Office of the Attorney General, shall initiate a study  
13 of the cannabis industry to evaluate whether the enactment of remedial measures to assist  
14 minorities and women in the adult–use cannabis industry and market would comply with  
15 the requirements of the Croson decision and any subsequent federal or constitutional  
16 requirements.

17 (ii) The certification agency shall submit the findings of the study  
18 initiated in accordance with subparagraph (i) of this paragraph to the Legislative Policy  
19 Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on or before  
20 November 1, 2022, so that the General Assembly may review the findings before the 2023  
21 legislative session.

22 (c) (1) The Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission shall require  
23 licensed growers, processors, and dispensaries and preapproved applicants for licensure  
24 under Title 13, Subtitle 33 of the Health – General Article to provide to the Commission  
25 any information determined to be necessary to continue to assess the need for remedial  
26 measures in the cannabis industry and market that may include the following data broken  
27 down by State fiscal year for the period beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2022:

28 (i) a list of the licensee’s or applicant’s expenditures for each State  
29 fiscal year; and

30 (ii) for each expenditure, a description of the work performed, the  
31 dollar value of the expenditure, whether the work was performed by the licensee or a  
32 contractor or subcontractor, and, if performed by a contractor or subcontractor, the name  
33 of the entity that performed the work.

34 (2) Each licensed grower, processor, and dispensary and preapproved  
35 applicant for licensure under Title 13, Subtitle 33 of the Health – General Article shall  
36 provide the data requested under paragraph (1) of this subsection to the Commission on or  
37 before July 1, 2022.

38 (3) The Commission shall provide the data collected under paragraph (1)  
39 of this subsection to the certification agency on or before July 15, 2022.

1 (4) All data provided by each licensed grower, processor, and dispensary  
2 and preapproved applicant for licensure under Title 13, Subtitle 33 of the Health – General  
3 Article under this subsection:

4 (i) shall constitute confidential commercial information and  
5 confidential financial information and be treated as confidential by the Commission and  
6 the State; and

7 (ii) may be used only for purposes authorized under this section and  
8 be disclosed to the public only in an anonymized or aggregated format.

9 (d) The Governor’s Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs, in  
10 consultation with the certification agency and the Office of the Attorney General, shall  
11 develop race– and gender–neutral approaches to address the needs of minority and women  
12 applicants and minority– and women–owned businesses seeking to participate in the  
13 adult–use cannabis industry and submit a report of its findings to the Legislative Policy  
14 Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on or before  
15 October 15, 2022, so that the General Assembly may review, consider, and adopt race– and  
16 gender–neutral alternatives in any legislation adopted concerning the adult–use cannabis  
17 industry.

18 SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

19 (a) The Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission shall study and make  
20 recommendations on a home grow program to authorize qualifying patients to grow  
21 cannabis plants for personal use, including best practices implemented in other states.

22 (b) On or before November 1, 2022, the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis  
23 Commission shall report its findings and recommendations for the program to the Governor  
24 and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the Senate Finance  
25 Committee, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, the House Judiciary Committee,  
26 and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

27 SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the publishers of the  
28 Annotated Code of Maryland, in consultation with and subject to the approval of the  
29 Department of Legislative Services, shall correct, with no further action required by the  
30 General Assembly, cross–references and terminology rendered incorrect by this Act.  
31 References to the term “marijuana” shall be replaced with references to the term  
32 “cannabis”. The publishers shall adequately describe any correction that is made in an  
33 editor’s note following the section affected.

34 SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of  
35 this Act are contingent on the passage of Chapter \_\_\_ (H.B. 1) of the Acts of the General  
36 Assembly of 2022, a constitutional amendment, and its ratification by the voters of the  
37 State.

1           SECTION 11. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of  
2 Section 10 of this Act, Section 3 of this Act shall take effect January 1, 2023. Section 3 of  
3 this Act shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of June 30, 2023,  
4 Section 3 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be  
5 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

6           SECTION 12. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of  
7 Section 10 of this Act, Section 4 of this Act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

8           SECTION 13. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of  
9 Section 10 of this Act, Sections 2, 5, and 6 of this Act shall take effect January 1, 2023.

10           SECTION 14. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in  
11 Sections 11, 12, and 13 of this Act, this Act shall take effect June 1, 2022.