

Ready_FAV_SB347

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Judicial Proceedings Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 11, 2020

Senator Justin Ready

SB 347 – Public Safety - Certification of Police Officers

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings committee:

Senate Bill 347 would allow an individual that applies to become or be reinstated as a police officer in Maryland to not be immediately disqualified if they were previously employed by licensed dispensary, grower, or processor of medical cannabis.

Currently if an individual applies to become or reinstate as a police officer in Maryland, stating that they were employed by a licensed dispensary, grower, or processor as defined by the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission means that they must state that they worked in the “distribution, production, cultivation, transportation, or sale of a controlled dangerous substance”. This immediately disqualifies their application and means that they can start an appeal process.

Although the individual may appeal the disqualification, it is currently very time consuming. With many of our rural areas bordering other states that compete with Maryland for employees and with Baltimore City short a large number of positions, this onerous process could have the effect of losing valuable and capable individuals to other areas and or other professions.

I respectfully request a **favorable** vote on Senate Bill 347