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## OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

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### Testimony for the House Judiciary Committee

#### SB 0143 Criminal Law - Marijuana - Possession and Possession With Intent to Distribute

#### FAVORABLE

The Office of the Public Defender supports SB 0143, which expands the amount of marijuana possession that is decriminalized in the State of Maryland. By 2021, fifteen states have completely legalized marijuana. And recent Gallup polling demonstrates that 68% of Americans support marijuana legalization.<sup>1</sup> While this bill isn't full legalization, it increases the amount of marijuana an individual could possess without risking criminal penalty. Thus, this bill leads Maryland in a positive direction in its Marijuana laws.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://news.gallup.com/poll/323582/support-legal-marijuana-inches-new-high.aspx>