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**BILL NO.:**           **HB 1**

**TITLE:**             Constitutional Amendment – Cannabis Adult Use and Possession

**SPONSOR:**        Delegate Clippinger

**COMMITTEE:**     Finance

**POSITION:**       **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**             March 23, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1 – Constitutional Amendment - Cannabis - Adult Use and Possession. This legislation would allow Maryland voters to decide on a Constitutional Amendment legalizing the recreational use of cannabis in the State.

The legalization of cannabis has come into focus as a critical social justice initiative in recent years. Stringent restrictions on the use of cannabis have led to higher numbers of low level, nonviolent arrests, disproportionately in minority communities. States across the Country, recognizing the shift in the public’s perception of cannabis use, have allowed voters to decide what is right for them.

With the passage of HB 1, the question of legalization would appear on the 2022 General Election ballot and would afford Marylanders the right to weigh on this important decision. Baltimore County supports the right of the voters to choose whether the recreational use of cannabis should be legal in Maryland.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).