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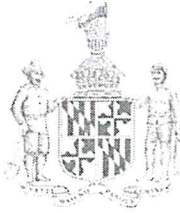
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**House Bill 1078 - Cannabis - Regulation – Medical Cannabis Definition and Study
Testimony of Delegate Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk (FWA)**

Chairman Pendergrass and fellow Committee members, I am pleased to present House Bill (HB) 1078. This emergency legislation has been amended to require the Natalie LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, to study and make recommendations on the classification and regulation of tetrahydrocannabinols and certain manufactured products that are artificially, synthetically, or naturally derived, as well as manufactured products containing Delta-8 and Delta-10-tetrahydrocannabinol.

The workgroup must submit its findings on or before January 1, 2023. They will be submitted to the Governor as well as the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, the House Judiciary Committee, and the House Health and Government Operations Committee. The Maryland General Assembly can then use these findings to ensure the best and safest next steps forward for these products.

The FDA has received adverse event reports involving Delta-8 THC-products. From December 2020 through July 2021, there were reports from both consumers and law enforcement describing 22 patients who consumed Delta-8 THC

products; of these, 14 ended up in an emergency room¹. Adverse events included vomiting, hallucinations, trouble standing, and loss of consciousness. Additionally, national poison control centers received 661 exposure cases of Delta-8 THC products between January 2018 and July 31, 2021, 660 of which occurred between January 1, 2021, and July 31, 2021. Of the 661 exposure cases:

- 41% involved unintentional exposure to Delta-8 THC and 77% of these unintentional exposures affected pediatric patients less than 18 years of age.
- 39% involved pediatric patients less than 18 years of age
- 18% required hospitalizations, including children who required intensive care unit (ICU) admission following exposure to these products.

Delta-8 Cannabinoids can also have psychoactive effects, and are often manufactured with unsafe chemicals. Their impact on the Maryland medical cannabis market needs to be closely examined. This legislation is a necessary step to keep Marylanders safe.

I am a strong supporter of our medical cannabis industry, but I want to help ensure the safest possible product for Maryland patients. This legislation is a common sense solution to what could potentially be a serious public health issue. Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 178. I respectfully request a favorable report.

¹ US Food and Drug Administration, 09/14/2021 <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/5-things-know-about-delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol-delta-8-thc>;