



State of Maryland
Office of the Attorney General

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair, Judicial Proceedings
Committee

FROM: Carrie J. Williams, Assistant Attorney General

RE: Attorney General's Support for SB 509

The Attorney General urges the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 509. Senate Bill 509 decriminalizes possession of hypodermic syringes and other drug paraphernalia used to introduce a controlled dangerous substance into the human body and reduces the penalty for possession of other types of paraphernalia.

The decriminalization of syringes is in line with the movement to treat drug addiction as a health crisis, not a crime. The reduction of the penalty for possession of other types of paraphernalia is in line with the penalties for possession of a controlled dangerous substance as modified by the Justice Reinvestment Act. The Attorney General supports Senate Bill 509.

cc: Members of the Committee