



**STATEMENT BY
THE GREATER BETHESDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REGARDING
HOUSE BILL 1—CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT-CANNABIS—ADULT USE AND
POSSESSION
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 14, 2022
POSITION: FAVORABLE REPORT**

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) was founded in 1926. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 550 businesses located throughout the Greater Bethesda area and beyond. On behalf of these members, we appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on House Bill 1—Constitutional Amendment-Cannabis-Adult Use and Possession

The cannabis industry is one of the country's fastest growing industries. An estimated 321,000 people now work in the legal cannabis industry, and that number will only continue to increase. The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce supports this industry as it is and will continue to be an important part of Maryland's economy moving forward.,

While this bill, if passed, does not automatically legalize cannabis for adult use in Maryland, it does allow voters to decide whether or not to allow for that. We support what many surrounding states have already done, which is legalize cannabis for adult use. However, we are agnostic on the approach the state takes to establish a program that is appropriately regulated and taxed.

We respectfully request a favorable vote on. House Bill 1.