



State of Maryland
Office of the Attorney General

Friday, February 11, 2022

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair, Judiciary Committee
FROM: Carrie J. Williams, Assistant Attorney General
RE: Attorney General's Support for HB 481

The Attorney General urges the Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 481. House Bill 481 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 House Bill 481.

cc: Members of the Committee