



**CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC**

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## **HB685 – Medical Cannabis - Visiting Qualifying Patients**

### **FAVORABLE**

Carrington & Associates, LLC, requests a FAVORABLE report for HB685. This bill prohibits a visiting qualifying patient from being required to have a written certification issued by a certifying provider or an identification card issued by the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission; including a visiting qualifying patient among the individuals with respect to whom the Commission is required to allow a licensed dispensary or registered dispensary agent to take certain actions related to medical cannabis without being subject to certain penalties or arrest; etc.

We would like to thank Senator Kelly for bringing this important legislation forward. The General Assembly has been laser-focused in updating our laws to reflect our current understanding of cannabis as a medicinal treatment for patients. When the Legislature passed [HB881 in 2014](#), the intention of this honorable Body was to treat out of state patients that use cannabis for medicinal purposes, the same as we do for all other patients such as diabetics, those with heart conditions, etc. We do not deny an out of state patient access to their medication and cannabis should not be treated any differently.

For the stated reasons, we ask for a FAVORABLE report on HB685.

Please feel free to contact Darrell Carrington, at [darrell.carrington@verizon.net](mailto:darrell.carrington@verizon.net), if you would like any additional information.