

Senate Bill 537\House Bill 805 - Cannabis Licensee Locations

Carrington & Associates, LLC is writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 537\House Bill 805, sponsored by Senator Feldman and Delegate Willson, respectively, regarding Cannabis Licensee Locations.

Our firm has been actively involved in the cannabis industry, working closely with various jurisdictions, including Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Charles, and others across Maryland. We have been part of initiatives to enact zoning laws, navigate regulatory landscapes, and foster responsible cannabis business operations.

Senate Bill 537\House Bill 805 aims to address zoning requirements for licensed dispensaries and outdoor cannabis cultivation in political subdivisions. We believe that local control is crucial, and we fully support the provision that prevents political subdivisions from adopting ordinances more restrictive than those for other retail businesses.

Moreover, we acknowledge the importance of equal protection and due process for cannabis licensees. As legal entities, they have the right to operate under fair conditions comparable to other businesses. We believe Senate Bill 537\House Bill 805 strikes a balance between local control and the rights of cannabis licensees.

Our experience working with local governments, the Maryland Municipal League (MML), and the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) has given us insight into the diverse needs of communities. The proposed legislation aligns with the desires of Maryland voters, with 67% supporting a seamless implementation of adult-use cannabis with widespread access.

We kindly request your favorable report for Senate Bill 537\House Bill 805. Your support will contribute to the growth of the cannabis industry in Maryland while ensuring responsible and equitable business operations.

Thank you for considering our position, and we look forward to witnessing the positive impact Senate Bill 537\House Bill 805 can have on Maryland's cannabis landscape. Please do not hesitate to contact Darrell Carrington, Founding Board Member and former Executive Director of the Maryland Cannabis Industry Association (MDCIA), at 732-763-7398 or darrell.carrington@verizon.net.