

MIKE MCKAY
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Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



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Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Bill 348 – Firearms – Right to Purchase, Own, Possess, and Carry– State Share Adjustment

February 1, 2024

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

The purpose of the bill is to protect the firearm ownership rights of those who are authorized to use medical cannabis. Patients who qualify to use medical cannabis, which is a legal product that is non-addictive, lose their rights when answering relevant firearm forms. These are the forms every prospective gun owner must fill out when purchasing a firearm in the State of Maryland. Preventing these law-abiding patients from purchasing a firearm based solely on the prescribed method they take, is unconstitutional and unfair. Former Attorney General Brian Frosh had written in an opinion, the state law does not permit our State Police from denying applications for purchase, handgun qualification permits, or carry permits. To fix this issue, he stated the legislature should clarify the Public Safety article with the Health General Article, Section 13-3313. Senate Bill 348 clarifies and rectifies this exact issue. I thank you all for your time and ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay

Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland

Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties