



CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC
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House Bill 1057 – Task Force to Study the Use and Possession of De Minimis Quantities of Controlled Dangerous Substances

SUPPORT

Carrington & Associates, LLC offers its support for HOUSE BILL 1057, "Task Force to Study the Use and Possession of De Minimis Quantities of Controlled Dangerous Substances." We believe that this legislation represents a crucial step towards a more comprehensive understanding of the complex issues surrounding controlled dangerous substances and the potential implementation of more effective and fair policies.

Here are key reasons for our support:

1. Informed Decision-Making:

- HOUSE BILL 1057 establishes a Task Force comprising diverse stakeholders, including representatives from the legislature, law enforcement, healthcare, legal professionals, and community organizations. This diversity ensures a comprehensive and well-rounded approach to studying the issues related to de minimis quantities of controlled dangerous substances.

2. Evidence-Based Recommendations:

- The bill mandates the Task Force to conduct a thorough analysis of the relationship between drug use and crime, consult with experts, and review best practices in other states. This commitment to evidence-based decision-making is crucial for crafting effective policies that address the root causes of substance use issues.

3. Alternatives to Criminal Justice Intervention:

- The inclusion of objectives related to identifying alternatives to criminal justice intervention, such as assessments of substance use or mental health disorders, and referral to drug education programs, demonstrates a forward-thinking approach. This acknowledges the importance of addressing substance use as a public health concern rather than solely as a criminal matter.

4. Focus on Treatment and Support Services:

- The bill recognizes the need to increase the availability of low-barrier substance use disorder treatment, peer support services, transitional housing, and harm reduction interventions. This emphasis on a multi-faceted approach aligns with modern understanding and best practices in addressing substance use issues.

5. Inclusive Representation:

- The Task Force includes representatives with lived experiences, ensuring that the perspectives of those directly affected by substance use disorders are considered in the decision-making process. This inclusive representation contributes to a more empathetic and effective approach to policy development.

6. Transparent Reporting:

- The bill establishes a clear deadline for the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. This commitment to transparency and accountability ensures that the public and policymakers are kept informed of the Task Force's work.

In conclusion, we believe that HOUSE BILL 1057 is a well-considered and timely initiative that addresses the complexities of controlled dangerous substances in a comprehensive and inclusive manner. We urge you to support this bill and contribute to the creation of evidence-based and compassionate policies that prioritize public health and community well-being.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to seeing positive outcomes from the efforts of the Task Force.

For the foregoing reasons, we ask for your FAVORABLE report for House Bill 1057.