



House Bill 12 - Cannabis – Sale and Distribution – Tetrahydrocannabinol Offenses

House Economic Matters Committee

February 18, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to express the support of the Maryland Dispensary Association (MDA) and the Maryland Wholesale Cannabis Trade Association (CANMD) for House Bill 12 – *Cannabis – Sale and Distribution – Tetrahydrocannabinol Offenses*. Together, our organizations represent a majority of the cannabis dispensary, processor, and grower licensees in Maryland.

In 2023, the General Assembly passed the Cannabis Reform Act (CRA) following the passage of the accompanying Constitutional Amendment in 2022; voters strongly supported that amendment, and legal cannabis sales began in July 2023.

The CRA was a very detailed effort to establish a licensing structure, a regulatory enforcement structure, tax policy, and public safety and health protections to ensure a highly regulated industry that provides safe, tested and consistent products for consumers. As part of that comprehensive legislation, the General Assembly made a policy decision on how intoxicating hemp products can lawfully be sold in Maryland. **Nothing in Senate Bill 214 sets new policy; the General Assembly’s decision on the sale and legality of intoxicating products has already been made.**

House Bill 204 simply clarifies the regulatory and enforcement measures the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC) may use to identify illicit products, as defined by the General Assembly in 2023, and enforce the intent of the law. As cannabis licensees that proudly operate in a very regulated environment, with enforcement authority resting with the Maryland Cannabis Administration, we support the efforts of the ATCC.

MDA and CANMD appreciate the work this committee has done to ensure that Marylanders can safely and responsibly consume cannabis and cannabis products. We urge a Favorable report on House Bill 204.

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Trade Association

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