

MARYLAND CANNABIS PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Deondra P. Asike, M.D.

January 30, 2025

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The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: SB 214/ HB 12
Cannabis - Sale and Distribution - Tetrahydrocannabinol
Offenses- Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council (the Council) is submitting this letter of support for **Senate Bill (SB) 214/ House Bill (HB) 12 - Cannabis - Sale and Distribution - Tetrahydrocannabinol Offenses**. SB 214/ HB 12 authorizes officers of the field enforcement division of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC) to issue citations for unlicensed cannabis sales and expands cannabis product packaging and labeling requirements to include all tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) products. SB 214/ HB 12 also sets fines for infractions, and authorizes ATCC to seize, destroy, or confiscate unlawful products.

The Council supports SB 214/ HB 12 because the bills expand existing public health protections for cannabis products and enhance the ATCC's enforcement powers. Current Maryland law requires

THC-containing products to be sold exclusively in licensed dispensaries. Through federal and state regulatory loopholes, unlicensed retailers, for example, in gas stations and convenience stores, have been selling hemp-derived delta-8 and delta-10 THC products outside of the Maryland Cannabis Administration's comprehensive licensing and regulatory framework for dispensaries. As such, delta-8 and delta-10 hemp-derived products are not currently required to undergo any laboratory testing for dangerous additives, purity, or potency. There is growing evidence that some delta-8 and delta-10 THC products contain unlabeled contaminants¹ and produce harmful by-products.² While current regulations limit the amount of THC allowed in licensed cannabis products on the adult-use market, many delta-8 and delta-10 hemp products contain higher concentrations of intoxicating THC. Finally, due to ongoing litigation, hemp products are being sold in Maryland without compliance to existing packaging standards, standards established to decrease appeal to youth. These existing loopholes allow certain businesses to circumvent cannabis regulations that are vital to ensuring public health.

For these reasons, the Council respectfully urges this Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 214/ HB 12.

¹ Ray, C. L., Bylo, M. P., Pescaglia, J., Gawenis, J. A., & Greenleaf, C. M. (2022). Delta-8 Tetrahydrocannabinol Product Impurities. *Molecules* (Basel, Switzerland), 27(20), 6924. <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules27206924>

² Meehan-Atrash, J., & Rahman, I. (2022). Novel Δ 8-Tetrahydrocannabinol Vaporizers Contain Unlabeled Adulterants, Unintended Byproducts of Chemical Synthesis, and Heavy Metals. *Chemical research in toxicology*, 35(1), 73–76. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.chemrestox.1c00388>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'De' followed by a stylized flourish.

Deondra Asike, M.D.
Chair, Maryland Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council