



K & T SECURITY SERVICES

Professional Service Always

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 299

Submitted on Behalf of Obiajulu Arah, CEO, K&T Security

Chairwoman Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 299. My name is Obiajulu Arah, and I am the CEO of K&T Security, a woman-owned, minority-owned business based in Laurel, Maryland. We specialize in professional security services across various industries, including cannabis, healthcare, education, and commercial enterprises.

Senate Bill 299 addresses an important issue that has been unnecessarily burdensome for Maryland's licensed security professionals and cannabis licensees. As written, the proposed updates to COMAR provide critical regulatory relief by eliminating the duplicative fingerprinting and background check requirements imposed by the Medical Cannabis Administration (MCA) for security guards who are already cleared and licensed under Maryland's Security Guard regulations.

Rationale for Support

1. Elimination of Redundancies

Security professionals licensed under Title 19 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article are already subject to rigorous background checks and fingerprinting through the Maryland State Police. Requiring them to undergo another criminal history records check through MCA is redundant, costly, and unnecessary. Senate Bill 299 ensures that those who are already authorized to provide security guard services will not face duplicative screening, streamlining regulatory processes without compromising public safety.

2. Cost Reduction for Cannabis Licensees

The cannabis industry in Maryland is highly regulated, with many licensees already facing significant costs to maintain compliance. By removing the MCA's additional background check and fingerprinting requirements, this bill helps reduce expenses for licensees without sacrificing security standards. These savings can be reinvested into other operational priorities, further supporting the growth of Maryland's cannabis industry.

3. Alignment of Standards Across Industries

Security professionals should not face inconsistent requirements depending on the industries they serve. This bill brings parity to the regulatory framework by aligning security requirements for cannabis businesses with those in other industries. It reinforces that the existing clearance process under Title 19 is sufficient to uphold the safety and security of cannabis licensees, their employees, and the broader public.

Conclusion

On behalf of K&T Security and other Maryland-based security agencies, I urge the Committee to issue a **favorable report** for Senate Bill 299. This legislation offers commonsense regulatory reform by reducing unnecessary administrative burdens while maintaining the integrity and professionalism of security services provided to cannabis licensees.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
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