

2/25/2025

SB 0842 – Favorable with amendments

Good Afternoon Chair/vice and members of the committee,

My name is Matthew Milby and I am a small business owner in Maryland along with being a disabled Army Veteran.

I am supporting SB0842 with amendments for HB 1241 as well. I like the intention to hold the bad actors in this industry accountable. Unfortunately as this bill is written will cause a compliance and a clerical mess. We would love to see practical amendments that affect the issue directly and swiftly.

I support the decision to make the ATCC enforcement authority greater to protect public health and increasing the ability to seize from the bad actors.

I would like to see an amendment to require all retailers to obtain a license specific to ESD's. With this we can easily regulate the market and ensuring compliance with the law. The ATCC needs a comprehensive list of all these license holders so they can do their job.

We also need to establish mandatory penalties for businesses that do not pay the correct tax or no tax or those who continue to sell for minors. We have literally flower shops in Maryland selling ESD's and businesses charging 0% tax, especially if your paying in cash. We have lots of businesses only charging 6% tax and some only 12%. It only takes a quick google search to find out who is selling to minors and they are your usually tax evasion people too.

I would also love to see the limitation of larger volume ESD's to licensed vape shops.(over 5mls) This would make enforcement and oversight a lot easier and would cost less money. I know MD is in a huge deficit problem right now and this would go a long way to ensure keeping costs down and making enforcement better. Vape shops have proven year after year to be the good actors of the industry and that is where ESD's need to majorly sold. Check enforcement violations and you will be hard pressed to find a single vape shop on that list. You will find a slew of smoke shops and tobacco shops and convenience stores who are actively selling to minors.

Thank you!