



January 30th, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3E Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Senate Bill 299 – Cannabis Agents – Registration – Security Guards**  
*FAVORABLE*

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) is submitting this letter of support for Senate Bill 299 – Cannabis Agents – Registration – Security Guards (SB0299).

SB0299 clarifies criminal history record check requirements for cannabis agents who provide security guard services to cannabis licensees and registrants. In Chapters 254/255 of 2023, the Cannabis Reform Act of 2023 (CRA), the General Assembly established that all cannabis agents must obtain a criminal history records check, which involves submitting two sets of fingerprints to the Central Repository at the time of application to the Administration. SB0299 provides that a cannabis agent who is employed to provide security guard services to a cannabis licensee or registrant does not need to obtain a criminal history records check if they are certified to provide security guard services under Business Occupations & Professions, §19-403, Annotated Code of Maryland.

In Chapter 763 (2023), the General Assembly expanded existing law to require that any individual who provides security guard services in Maryland must obtain certification through the Department of State Police (MSP). Additionally, it further toughened requirements by authorizing MSP to deny or revoke a security guard certification if an individual is found to have been convicted of a disqualifying crime under the Public Safety Article or a crime of violence under the Criminal Law Article. As a result, MSP's criminal history records check is more stringent than MCA's, rendering it unnecessary for agents to obtain separate fingerprints for MCA's registration process.

Under SB0299, a security guard would still register with MCA as a cannabis agent; however, it eliminates an unnecessary redundancy in statute for the security guard to submit fingerprints for both MCA agent registration and MSP certification. Instead MCA can use proof of MSP security guard certification to verify that the prospective agent is eligible to work on the premises of a cannabis licensee or registrant. SB0299 enables MCA to rely on MSP's fingerprinting requirements and robust security background checks to eliminate an extra hurdle for businesses and individuals who wish to provide security to cannabis licensees and registrants. MCA is happy to support SB0299 because it saves time and money for security guard businesses and agents, while streamlining the MCA agent registration process.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at [andrew.garrison@maryland.gov](mailto:andrew.garrison@maryland.gov), or Alison Butler, Division Chief, Policy Implementation, at [alison.butler@maryland.gov](mailto:alison.butler@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Garrison', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Andrew C. Garrison  
Chief of Policy & Government Affairs, Maryland Cannabis Administration