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Senate Finance Committee
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Senate Bill 214 – *Cannabis – Sale and Distribution – Tetrahydrocannabinol Offenses*
POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, supports Senate Bill 214.

Senate Bill 214 expands the authority of the Field Enforcement Division of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission to enforce and issue violations for failure to comply with existing law relative to sale of tetrahydrocannabinol products. It clarifies and strengthens statutory provisions prohibiting the sale of tetrahydrocannabinol products that violate the potency, packaging, or labeling requirements in current law and establishes penalties for non-licensees and disciplinary actions for licensees. It also aligns the prosecution for selling tetrahydrocannabinol without a license with the prosecution for selling alcohol without a license, making the display or offering of the products or keeping a place of business where the products are displayed or offered for sale as prima facie evidence that the defendant sold the products.

The General Assembly was very intentional in its statutory framework that legalized cannabis in order to enhance public safety, protect public health, and ensure a well-defined licensure framework for the sales and distribution of the product that provided accountability and oversight. Passage of Senate Bill 214 strengthens the State's current framework and addresses concerns regarding the enforcement of licensure requirements and penalties associated with failure to comply with the law. MedChi urges a favorable report.

For more information call:

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