

**MCA\_SB 222- FAV Testimony - Written.pdf**

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January 16, 2025

The Honorable Pam Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**SB 222 – Public Health – Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council – Membership**  
*FAVORABLE*

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

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) in SUPPORT of SB 222 – Public Health – Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council – Membership.

SB 222 is a departmental request from The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to add a seat to the Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council (“PHAC”) for the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). The MCA believes MVA is a critical voice that should be heard on PHAC and supports this bill.

PHAC is charged with, among other things, administering the Cannabis Public Health Fund. Within the allowable uses of this fund are roadside safety efforts and initiatives, of which the MVA representative, or their designee, would have the expertise that is currently unrepresented on PHAC. MCA and MDOT staff meet regularly to discuss and coordinate efforts on traffic concerns, public education, public service messaging, and general information as it pertains to cannabis use and safety. MCA is excited to further strengthen our partnership and collaboration with our colleagues in the Department.

MVA will provide both a valuable and essential voice to the Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council, and their addition will help improve the overall health, safety, and education of the Maryland public. For these reasons, the MCA respectfully requests a favorable report. SB222 additionally updates the name of the MCA designee to reflect the agency’s name since the transition from the medical to adult-use program.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact me at (410) 487-8051 or [andrew.garrison@maryland.gov](mailto:andrew.garrison@maryland.gov), or Selena Rawlley, Senior Policy Analyst, at [selena.rawlley@maryland.gov](mailto:selena.rawlley@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Garrison", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

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

**SB 222 - FIN - MDH - LOS.pdf**

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

January 16, 2025

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

**RE: SB 222 – Public Health - Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council –  
Membership – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of Support for Senate Bill (SB) 222 – Public Health - Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council - Membership. This bill creates a position on the Maryland Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council (the Council) for the Administrator of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) or the Administrator's designee.

The Department supports SB 222 because of the Council's continuing work regarding Cannabis-impaired driving. The Department believes that including representation from the MVA to the Council will benefit the Council and the State by providing traffic and public safety expertise. This expertise will help inform the Council's future recommendations on public safety to prevent Cannabis-impaired driving and provide the Council with expertise and resources on traffic and public safety.

As written, SB 222 will have neither a fiscal nor operational impact on the Department.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary

# **SB0222 - MVA - LOS - Public Health – Cannabis Publ**

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

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January 16, 2025

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

***RE: Letter of Support - Senate Bill 222 - Public Health – Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council – Membership***

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports Senate Bill 222 as an important addition to public health discussions as it relates to impaired driving.

Senate Bill 222 adds the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) Administrator, or designee, to the Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council that was established in 2023. This Council's role is to promote public health, mitigation of youth use, and data collection/reporting of recreational cannabis use, just to name a few areas of its focus.

A traffic safety expert brings specialized knowledge and experience essential for addressing the complex challenges of cannabis use and impaired driving. Inclusion as a representative to the Council of such an expert carries many benefits for public health. First, a traffic safety expert can provide insight into the risks associated with driving under the influence of cannabis, including reaction times, judgment, and coordination. That expert can contribute to developing effective regulations aimed at reducing impaired driving incidents, including strategies for enforcement, education and prevention. Traffic safety experts can interpret data related to cannabis-impaired driving and help the council make informed decisions based on evidence. Finally, the expert's input can contribute to overall public safety by developing strategies to mitigate risks associated with road safety.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant Senate Bill 222 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer  
Administrator  
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration  
410-787-7830

Matthew Mickler  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090