

MICHELE GUYTON
Legislative District 42B
Baltimore County

—
Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 11, 2026

Favorable – HB 452

State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners – Grounds for Disciplinary Action - Restrictions

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation committee,

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of HB 452, brought to you on behalf of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association. This bill prohibits the Board of Veterinary Medicine from suspending or revoking a license, reprimanding or censuring a veterinarian solely on the basis of discussion or recommendation of the use of cannabis for animal health concerns. Our laws regarding medical cannabis for human use changed dramatically with legalization in this General Assembly 12 years ago. In 2023, the state also legalized recreational use. The laws surrounding therapeutic use in animals, however, have not been updated. Cannabis shows remarkable therapeutic value for many common veterinary ailments. My own pup, Pearl has a severe seizure disorder and has been on high dosages of anti-convulsive medications that are considered “high-risk” in humans and which can lead to anxiety, irritability and organ failure. They are also costly and not always successful. Nobody working at any of her high-priced canine neurologist visits or intensive care veterinary stays has ever mentioned cannabis to me as a potential treatment option despite the fact that research demonstrates up to a 89% reduction in seizure activity in dogs on cannabis therapy. Without changing behavior negatively or affecting her liver or kidneys.

I would prefer to have the conversation with her neurologist before treating her with these options. I would like to know appropriate dosage and drug interactions and get an educated opinion from someone I trust with her care. I hope that this bill will pass so that I can have that guidance and so that Pearl’s veterinary team will have the flexibility to provide the care that may animals really need.

Thank you for your consideration of HB452.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton, District 42B