

**SB0537/253723/1**

BY: Senator Charles

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 537, AS AMENDED  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1 of the bill, in line 2, strike “**Licensee Locations – Restrictions**” and substitute “**Licensees – Location Restrictions and Complaints**”; in line 8, after “requirements;” insert “requiring a political subdivision to grant a waiver to certain zoning requirements to a licensed cannabis dispensary that was operating before a certain date; authorizing certain individuals to file a complaint with the Maryland Cannabis Administration against a cannabis licensee; establishing standards and requirements for the Administration’s consideration of a complaint filed under this Act;”; in line 17, strike “and” and substitute a comma; and in the same line, after “36-410” insert “, and 36-411”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3 of the bill, in line 19, strike “500 feet” and substitute “**ONE-HALF MILE**”; and in line 25, strike “1,000 feet” and substitute “**ONE-HALF MILE**”.

In the Finance Committee Amendments (SB0537/953421/1), in line 6 of Amendment No. 2, strike “**2,000 FEET**” and substitute “**ONE-HALF MILE**”.

On page 4 of the bill, after line 11, insert:

**“(G) A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SHALL GRANT A WAIVER TO AN ORDINANCE THAT PROVIDES A DISTANCE REQUIREMENT FOR DISPENSARIES UNDER THIS SECTION FOR A LICENSED DISPENSARY THAT WAS IN OPERATION BEFORE APRIL 1, 2024.**

**36-411.**

(A) (1) A COMPLAINT AGAINST A LICENSEE MAY BE FILED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION BY AT LEAST 10 INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE:

(I) RESIDENTS, COMMERCIAL TENANTS WHO ARE NOT HOLDERS OF OR APPLICANTS FOR A LICENSE, OR REAL ESTATE OWNERS; AND

(II) LOCATED WITHIN 1,000 FEET OF THE LICENSED PREMISES.

(2) A COMPLAINT AGAINST A LICENSEE SHALL:

(I) BE ON THE BASIS OF:

1. A VIOLATION OF THIS TITLE;

2. A VIOLATION OF CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LAW;

3. CONDUCT BY A LICENSEE THAT CREATES OR MAINTAINS CONDITIONS THAT ALLOW OTHER INDIVIDUALS TO ACT IN A MANNER THAT DISTURBS THE PUBLIC PEACE, INCLUDING:

A. OBSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY BY UNRULY CROWDS;

B. ASSAULT, BATTERY, OR OTHER DISORDERLY CONDUCT THAT DISTURBS THE PUBLIC PEACE;

C. VANDALISM; OR

D. LITTERING; OR

4. ANY OTHER VIOLATION ESTABLISHED BY THE ADMINISTRATION BY REGULATION; AND

(II) BE SIGNED UNDER OATH.

(B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF A COMPLAINT AGAINST A LICENSEE IS FILED AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE THE LICENSE EXPIRES, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY NOT APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE LICENSE WITHOUT HOLDING A HEARING.

(2) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY APPROVE A LICENSE RENEWAL WITHOUT A HEARING IF THE ADMINISTRATION FINDS THAT THE BASIS OF THE COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST THE LICENSEE LACKS SUBSTANCE.

(C) TO HEAR AND MAKE A DETERMINATION ON A COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST A LICENSEE , THE ADMINISTRATION:

(1) MAY CONSIDER ONLY:

(I) ISSUES ARISING OUT OF SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE OPERATION OF THE LICENSED PREMISES; AND

(II) THE PERFORMANCE OF THE LICENSE HOLDER FOR THE 4-YEAR PERIOD IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF THE RENEWAL APPLICATION; AND

(2) MAY NOT CONSIDER ZONING ISSUES.

(D) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.”.