

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 222

(Chair, Finance Committee)(By Request - Departmental -
Transportation)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

Public Health – Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council – Membership

This departmental bill adds the Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) (or the Administrator’s designee) and the Executive Director of the Office of Social Equity (OSE) (or the Executive Director’s designee) as members of the Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council. It also makes a technical correction to the affiliation and corresponding title of one of the advisory council members.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill’s changes can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill does not affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council was established to study and annually report its findings and recommendations on specified public health impacts of cannabis legalization. Members of the advisory council may not receive compensation but are entitled to standard reimbursement for travel expenses. The

Maryland Department of Health provides staff and technical assistance for the advisory council.

The advisory council's annual report must address:

- the promotion of public health and mitigation of youth use, misuse, and addiction to cannabis;
- data collection and reporting of data that measures the impact of cannabis consumption and legalization;
- the impact of cannabis legalization on the education, behavioral health, and somatic health of individuals younger than age 21;
- initiatives to prevent cannabis use by individuals younger than age 21, including educational programs for use in schools;
- public health campaigns on cannabis;
- advertising, labeling, product testing, and quality control requirements;
- training for health care providers related to cannabis use;
- best practices regarding requirements to reduce the appeal of cannabis to minors, including advertising, potency, packaging, and labeling standards; and
- any other issues that advance public health related to cannabis use and legalization.

The council convened its first meeting in August 2023, and according to its [December 2024](#) annual report, has since formed the following workgroups: (1) youth cannabis use mitigation; (2) data and surveillance; (3) health care professional education; (4) on-site consumption; and (5) legislative.

OSE is an independent office functioning within the Maryland Cannabis Administration, established to promote and encourage full participation in the regulated cannabis industry by people from communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs in order to positively impact those communities.

According to MDOT, the Administrator of MVA, as a traffic safety expert, has specialized knowledge and experience to assist in addressing the complex challenges of cannabis use and impaired driving. By adding the administrator to the advisory council membership, the bill is intended to ensure that impaired driving is included in council discussions and decisions.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 46 (Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Transportation) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Cannabis Administration; Maryland Department of Health; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 13, 2025
km/lgc Third Reader - March 17, 2025
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 17, 2025

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Public Health – Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council Membership

BILL NUMBER: SB 222

PREPARED BY: Maryland Department of Transportation

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS