

HOUSE BILL 452

M4, A3

6lr1754
CF SB 54

By: **Delegates Guyton, Spiegel, Taveras, Terrasa, and Woorman**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners – Grounds for Disciplinary Action**
3 **– Restrictions**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners from
5 suspending or revoking a license to practice veterinary medicine in the State,
6 reprimanding or censuring a licensee, or placing a licensee on probation solely on the
7 basis of the licensee discussing or recommending the use of cannabis or a product
8 that contains cannabidiol on an animal for certain purposes; and generally relating
9 to the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and grounds for disciplinary
10 action.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Agriculture
13 Section 2–301(a), (b), (d), (h), and (i)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Agriculture
18 Section 2–310
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
22 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
23 Section 1–101(a) and (d)
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

26 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
27 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Article – Agriculture

2 2-301.

3 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (b) "Board" means the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

5 (d) "License" means a license to practice veterinary medicine in the State.

6 (h) "Veterinarian" means any person who is a graduate of a college of veterinary
7 medicine.

10 2-310.

14 (1) Is unable to practice veterinary medicine competently due to a physical
15 or mental disability;

19 (3) Is convicted of a felony, or of a crime involving moral turpitude;

20 (4) Is convicted of violating any provision of this subtitle, any unlawful or
21 fraudulent practice, or any fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive representation or
22 advertising concerning his professional qualifications or the quality of materials or drugs
23 used by him in his professional work or in the treatment of animals;

24 (5) Has a final judgment entered against him in a civil malpractice case
25 involving gross personal negligence;

26 (6) Obtains the license by fraud or misrepresentation, either in the
27 application, or in passing the examination;

28 (7) Is guilty of employing or permitting to practice veterinary medicine any
29 person who does not hold a license to practice veterinary medicine in the State;

(8) Fails to comply with Board rules or regulations after receiving a license;

- (9) Is grossly negligent or deliberately cruel to an animal;
- (10) Is determined by four members to be professionally incompetent as a practitioner;
- (11) Is disciplined by a licensing authority of another state, including the revocation of a license to practice veterinary medicine, for an act that would or disciplinary action under this section;
- (12) Fails to comply with animal cruelty or animal fighting reporting s under § 2-313.1 of this subtitle; or
- (13) Willfully violates the cat declawing prohibition under § 2-313.3 of this

(B) THE BOARD MAY NOT SUSPEND OR REVOKE A LICENSE, REPRIMAND OR
URE A LICENSEE, OR PLACE A LICENSEE ON PROBATION SOLELY ON THE BASIS
HE LICENSEE DISCUSSING OR RECOMMENDING THE USE OF CANNABIS, AS
NED IN § 1-101 OF THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CANNABIS ARTICLE, OR
ODUCT THAT CONTAINS CANNABIDIOL ON AN ANIMAL FOR POTENTIAL
APEUTIC EFFECT OR HEALTH SUPPLEMENTATION PURPOSES.

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

18 1-101.

(a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated.

(d) (1) “Cannabis” means the plant *Cannabis sativa L.* and any part of the plant, including all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of the isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of 0.3% or more on a dry weight basis.

(2) “Cannabis” includes cannabis products, seeds, seedlings, immature plants, and clones.

(3) “Cannabis” does not include hemp or hemp products, as defined in § 1 of the Agriculture Article.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2026.