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TO: Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Major Craig Rowe, CJM
Warden, Washington County Detention Center
DATE: February 13, 2020
RE: Senate Bill 356 - Possession of Medical Cannabis - Local Correctional Facilities and Home Detention Program - Prohibition

Position: SUPPORT

The Washington County Detention Center supports Senate Bill 356 which is designed to prohibit the possession of medical cannabis on the grounds of a local correctional facility or while an offender is in a home detention program.

Currently, there are provisions in the law that address the use or smoking Medical marijuana or cannabis. The prohibition includes public places, motor vehicles, private property rented from a landlord that decides to have a policy against the use, condominiums where the council of unit owners or a homeowners association may prohibit the use as well as in the State Prison Systems. We are supporting Senate Bill 356 so that the grounds of local correctional facilities and inmates under the supervision of Home Detention are included in the law so that possession or use is prohibited.

The majority of local correctional facilities within the State have their inmate medical services contracted with an outside vendor that cannot store or distribute the drug without violating Federal Law. The medical vendors cannot have marijuana or cannabis on their formulary as that is a violation of the Law. The practice of any type of prescription not on the formulary being accepted from an inmate's property, an inmate's family or caregiver ended long ago for security and safety reasons. There are numerous accounts of contraband and medications being laced with CDS. The medical services professionals have many alternative treatments available and are relied upon to make professional medical decisions within a correctional facility.

In today's correctional environment it is not safe to allow medication to come into a facility other than from a pharmacy so there is no possible way for a correctional facility to provide marijuana or cannabis in any form. §13-3304 of the Health General Article provides that "a qualifying patient or caregiver may obtain medical cannabis only from a medical cannabis grower licensed by the Commission or a dispensary licensed by the Commission." There is no provision that anyone else may obtain the drugs.

The prohibition of any controlled substance including medical cannabis on the grounds of a correctional facility or for a participant in a home detention program is common sense legislation that Washington County supports. I respectfully ask that the Judicial Proceedings Committee Support Senate Bill 356 with a favorable report also.