



LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

UNFAVORABLE

House Bill 683

Workers' Compensation – Medical Cannabis – Compensation and Benefits

House Economic Matters Committee

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Dear Chairman Davis and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 5,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic recovery and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

House Bill 683 seeks to prevent a covered employee or a dependent of a covered employee from receiving workers' compensation benefits if an injury or occupational disease was caused solely by the effect of medical cannabis.

Our primary concerns with HB 683 are:

1. It does not change existing law. A provision already exists in 9-506 to argue intoxication as the **sole** cause of an accident to prevent claimants from receiving benefits.
2. It is virtually impossible for employers to prove that cannabis consumption (medical or illicit) is the **sole** cause of an accident because there is no metric for testing cannabis intoxication.
3. Even if the use of the medical cannabis while working when the injury occurred was under the direction of a medical provider, there is no regulated way to prescribe it according to type or dose, thus making a determination of **sole** nearly impossible.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce greatly respects the intent of this legislation, however, we respectfully request an **unfavorable report** on House Bill 683.