



## Senate Bill 461

### *Workers' Compensation - Medical Cannabis - Compensation and Benefits*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**  
**WITH AMENDMENTS**

To: Finance Committee

Date: February 18, 2021

From: Drew Jabin

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 461 WITH CLARIFYING AMENDMENTS**. The bill would require medical cannabis to be among covered medications that an employer or its insurer is required to provide to a covered employee under certain circumstances. The legislation would also deny benefits if the injury or disease was caused solely by the effect of cannabis on the employee without the written certification of a certifying provider or the written instructions of a physician.

**Counties raise concern that due to cannabis being illegal under federal law, being required to provide this as medicine under state law may jeopardize federal funding for local jurisdictions.**

MACo suggests an amendment to address this concern by adding language to say that this legislation is not applicable if doing so would violate federal law or regulations or cause the employer to lose a monetary or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulations. Comparable language has been incorporated into similar legislation to ensure these unwanted outcomes – MACo encourages the same approach in SB 461.

Maryland county governments all have a common goal of providing for the health and well-being of their employees, but understandably do not want to lose federal assistance in that pursuit. Accordingly, MACo urges the committee to issue a **FAVORABLE with AMENDMENTS** report on SB 461.