



TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF THE MARYLAND MEDICAL DISPENSARY
ASSOCIATION

Senate Bill 722—Medical Cannabis-Licensees—Ownership Limitation Exemption

OPPOSE

Senate Finance Committee

March 4, 2021

The Maryland Medical Dispensary Association (MDMDA) was established in May, 2017 in order to promote the common interests and goals of the Medical Cannabis Dispensaries in Maryland. MDMDA advocates for laws, regulations and public policies that foster a healthy, professional and secure medical cannabis industry in the State. MDMDA works on the State and local level to advance the interests of licensed dispensaries as well as to provide a forum for the exchange of information in the Medical Cannabis Industry.

While we understand the stated goal of Senate Bill 722, the MDMDA has two concerns. First, we question exempting publicly traded companies from ownership interest rules, regardless of the percentage, when all other types of licensees, including independent licensees, would still be subject to these requirements. Second, since 2019 a lot of work has gone into closing ownership interest and control-related loopholes. MDMDA has supported a lot of those efforts. We are concerned about any unintended consequences that Senate Bill 722 may have, upending some of the work that has been done to address ownership and control-related issues.

For these reasons, we urge an unfavorable vote on Senate Bill 722.