



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary

Wes Moore, Governor

Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Kevin Atticks, Secretary

Steven A. Connelly, Deputy Secretary

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading
Industry

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
mda.maryland.gov

410.841.5886 Baltimore/Washington
410.841.5846 Fax

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Legislative Comment

Date: March 30, 2023

BILL NUMBER: SENATE BILL 508

SHORT TITLE: AGRICULTURE - HEMP FARMING PROGRAM - USE OF HEMP
AND HEMP PRODUCTS IN CONSUMABLE PRODUCTS

MDA POSITION: INFORMATION

Senate Bill 508 authorizes a person to produce consumable hemp products for sale under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the use of hemp in consumable hemp products. It requires the Maryland Department of Agriculture (the Department or MDA) to register and test consumable hemp products to ensure that the product meets applicable safety standards.

Under the Hemp Farming Program, the MDA currently issues licenses and regulates the growth of hemp crops in Maryland. MDA has not previously licensed or regulated consumable hemp products. The Hemp Farming Program is significantly expanded by the bill, resulting in a significant increase in workload; and existing staff are fully subscribed and cannot absorb the additional duties.

However, given additional general funds, the MDA would have the capacity to register products, issue registrations, and potentially license new hemp growers, maintain records, conduct inspections and issue stop sales and violation orders, and generally enforce the program as altered by the bill.

If you have additional questions, please contact Rachel Jones, MDA Director of Government Relations at Rachel.Jones2@maryland.gov or (667) 408-0134.