



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Letter of Information

House Bill 556

Cannabis Reform

House Economic Matters Committee

Friday, February 17, 2023

Dear Chairman Wilson 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 6,400 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic health and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

As introduced, HB 556 establishes the regulatory, licensing and taxation system for the adult-use cannabis industry in Maryland.

As the policy debate surrounding the legal adult-use of cannabis has evolved, Maryland employers have anxiously watched the regulatory rollout in other states and the successes and challenges they have experienced. The primary concern to Maryland businesses has been ensuring that safeguards will be put in place, should Maryland voters choose legalization, to give employers access to every available tool to maintain a safe environment for their employees and customers.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce submits this letter not having a policy position on the entirety of HB 556 and its licensing and regulation of a specific but new industry, however, Maryland businesses are very supportive of the included language enshrining an employer's right to maintain drug testing policies and utilize the most current methods of testing to make decisions about workplace safety. **Specifically, we support maintaining the language included in Subtitle 13, Section 36-1301(F).**

The Maryland Chamber of commerce values the hard work that has gone into HB 556, and we acknowledge the bill sponsor's support of maintaining safe workspaces for employees, employers and customer. We appreciate your consideration of these comments on **HB 556**.

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60 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis 21401 | 410-269-0642