

**Chairman Wilson and the Honorable Members of the Economic Matters Committee:**  
**Thank you for allowing me to speak on this matter. My name is David Martin, a Havre de Grace City Council Member. I am requesting the Economic Matters Committee give HB 556 a favorable report with the following amendment.**

**David Harkey, president of the Insurance Institute and its affiliate, the Highway Loss Data Institute, said in a statement “Our latest research makes it clear that legalizing marijuana for recreational use does increase overall crash rates.”**

**When states make the use and retail sales of recreational marijuana legal, crash rates rise. Injury and fatal crash rates jumped 6% and 4%, respectively, in California, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon and Washington following relaxation of marijuana laws compared with other Western states where recreational marijuana use was illegal. Insurance records showed a similar increase in collision claims after marijuana became legal.**

**I am seeking additional funding for training of Law Enforcement Personnel to become Maryland Drug Recognition Experts. Currently the cost of DRE certification is covered by a Federal Grant from Highway Safety which covers training, lodging and related materials. The additional funding is needed to cover the manpower needed for proper staffing during the training process. DRE Pre-School (16 hours), DRE School (56 hours) DRE Field Certification (Approximately 24 hours) (Example Cost for HDG. Cost for larger Police Departments can be higher.)**

Hours	Patrol Officer	Total Cost	Hours	PFC	Total Cost	Hours	Corporal	Total Cost	Hours	Sergeant	Total Cost
16	\$ 39.97	\$ 639.52	16	\$ 48.55	\$ 776.80	16	\$ 56.54	\$ 904.64	16	\$ 81.68	\$ 1,306.88
56	\$ 39.97	\$ 2,238.32	56	\$ 48.55	\$ 2,718.80	56	\$ 56.54	\$ 3,166.24	56	\$ 81.68	\$ 4,574.08
24	\$ 39.97	\$ 959.28	24	\$ 48.55	\$ 1,165.20	24	\$ 56.54	\$ 1,356.96	24	\$ 81.68	\$ 1,960.32
\$ 3,837.12			\$ 4,660.80			\$ 5,427.84			\$ 7,841.28		

**The focus of the DRE curricula is on the identification of the drug impaired driver, DRE skills are applied to many different law enforcement activities, including drug interdiction enforcement. Additionally, DRE’s can be used to differentiate between drug influence and medical and/or mental disorders. The certified DRE is an exceptionally valuable tool for combating the adverse impact of drugs on the communities we serve.**

**Applicants must also have a minimum of two years of experience as a patrol officer and an above average ability in courtroom testimony. Limited to sworn law enforcement officers who are trained and proficient in the use of the NHTSA Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs), including the use of Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus.**

**There is two phase training process for to become DRE certified:**

- 1) The academic training is typically conducted over nine days, two days of the Pre-school and seven days of the DRE School. The courses include physiology, vital signs, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), as well as extensive material on each of the seven categories of the drugs of abuse.**

- 2) After successfully completing the academic portion, the students proceed to the certification training phase. This training is conducted two to five nights a week until the requirements are met. It is the student's responsibility to complete the certification requirements within two months following the DRE School. These requirements include:
  - a) Participating in a minimum of 12 drug evaluations while under the supervision of a DRE instructor.
  - b) Six of the 12 evaluations must be conducted personally by the student, and all evaluations must be completed within two months of the completion of the DRE School.
  - c) Attaining a 75% toxicological confirmation rate. Toxicological results must be determined within three months of the completion of the DRE School.
  - d) Identifying subjects under the influence of at least three of the seven drug categories.
- 3) In addition, the student must maintain a progress log and a rolling log and submit a quality resume.
- 4) The final 2 days are spent on the student must pass a comprehensive final knowledge examination(1 day), which includes memorizing the entire symptomology matrix with all the general indicators and obtain the written endorsement of two certified DRE instructors. One day completing Administration training.
- 5) All DRE's are required to complete an 8-hour recertification program.

Currently in Maryland a blood test is the only approved method for THC testing. The State of Maryland has 4 oral fluid testing devices, but the use of these devices has not been certified. The certification process has begun but may take at least a year to complete.

Law enforcement officers, however, are not always equipped with the skills necessary to detect and investigate cannabis-impaired driving. Montgomery County is leading the way with Cannabis Impairment Detection Workshops that can be useful to all law enforcement agencies.

There are currently 52 DRE Instructors in the State of Maryland, 189 DRE's in the Maryland DRE Program and 35 agencies that have active DRE's in the Maryland DRE Program:

Annapolis PD	Anne Arundel County PD
Baltimore County PD	Baltimore PD
Bel Air PD	Berlin PD
Bladensburg PD	Calvert County Sheriff's Office
Caroline County Sheriffs Office	Carroll County Sheriff's Dept
Charles County Sheriff's Office	City of Bowie Police
Easton PD	Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Frederick PD	Greenbelt City Police
Hagerstown PD	Harford County Sheriff's Office

Havre de Grace PD (2)	Howard County Police
La Plata PD	Laurel City PD
Maryland State Police	Maryland Transportation Authority Police
Montgomery County Police	Ocean City PD
Prince George's County PD	Princess Anne PD
St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office	Talbot County Sheriff's Office
University of Maryland PD	University Park Police
Westminster City Police	Washington County Sheriff's Office
Wicomico County Sheriff's Office	

**From NHTSA website**

Many substances can impair driving, including alcohol, some over the counter and prescription drugs, and illegal drugs.

- Alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs can impair the ability to drive because they slow coordination, judgment, and reaction times.
- Cocaine and methamphetamine can make drivers more aggressive and reckless.
- Using two or more drugs at the same time, including alcohol, can amplify the impairing effects of each drug a person has consumed.
- Some prescription and over-the-counter medicines can cause extreme drowsiness, dizziness, and other side effects. Read and follow all warning labels before driving and note that warnings against “operating heavy machinery” include driving a vehicle.
- Impaired drivers can't accurately assess their own impairment – which is why no one should drive after using any impairing substances.