



City of Havre de Grace

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February 17, 2023

The Honorable C.T Wilson, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 2140

Re: Favorable With Amendments - HB 556 - Cannabis Reform

Chairman Wilson and the Honorable Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

The Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace (“the City”) supports HB 556 with amendments. If passed, the bill would establish the needed statutory framework for the use of medical and adult-use cannabis. The City respectfully requests the Economic Matters Committee give HB 556 a favorable report with the following amendments.

Suggested Amendment To House Bill 556 Number 1.

On Page 50, in line 13, after “COUNTY” strike “AND, IF APPLICABLE” and substitute with **or.**

(2) AN ON-SITE CONSUMPTION ESTABLISHMENT MAY OPERATE ONLY IF THE COUNTY ~~AND, IF APPLICABLE,~~ **OR** THE MUNICIPALITY, WHERE THE BUSINESS IS LOCATED HAVE ISSUED A PERMIT OR LICENSE THAT EXPRESSLY ALLOWS THE OPERATION OF THE ON-SITE CONSUMPTION ESTABLISHMENT.

Suggested Amendment To House Bill 556 Number 2.

On Page 50, in line 17, after “COUNTY” strike “AND, IF APPLICABLE” and substitute with **or**.

(B) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS IN § 36–405 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A COUNTY ~~AND, IF APPLICABLE,~~ **OR** A MUNICIPALITY MAY:

Suggested Amendment To House Bill 556 Number 3.

Under Division III. Cannabis, Subtitle 1. Definitions.

- Add a definition for the term impaired and provide guidance on how to determine if an employee is impaired.
- Add a definition for the term employer.

Suggested Amendment To House Bill 556 Number 4.

On page 72, in line 3, after (E)(1), insert **(I) Possessing Cannabis in the workplace.**
In line 3, strike (I) and substitute with **(II)**; in line 4, strike (II) and substitute with **(III)**.

(E) (1) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PREVENT A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYER FROM DISCIPLINING AN EMPLOYEE OR A CONTRACTOR FOR:

(I) POSSESSING CANNABIS IN THE WORKPLACE;
(II) INGESTING CANNABIS IN THE WORKPLACE; OR
(III) WORKING WHILE IMPAIRED BY CANNABIS.

Suggested Amendment to House Bill 556 Number 5.

On page 72, subsection (F) clarify if (F) applies to government employees or private employees, or both.

Suggested Amendment to House Bill 556 Number 6.

The General Assembly should establish a funding mechanism for local law enforcement agencies to assist with the cost of having officers obtain a Maryland Drug Recognition Expert certification.

Suggested Amendment to House Bill 556 Number 7.

The General Assembly should require guidelines to be adopted in regulation that assists employers and human resource professionals in determining when an employee is under the influence or impaired by cannabis.

Suggested Ament to House Bill 556 Number 8.

The General Assembly should clarify the implications this legislation, if passed, would have on law enforcement officers. Does the use of adult-use or medical cannabis conflict with existing statutory or regulatory provisions law enforcement officers currently must comply with?