



CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC

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HB556 – Cannabis Reform

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Carrington & Associates, LLC, requests a FAVORABLE report for HB556 with amendments. This bill will rename an agency, establish a legal framework for adults 21, and over to purchase cannabis at state licensed businesses, creates a social equity fund, comprehensively addresses the myriad of ancillary issues such as banking.

On behalf of our clients, we would like to thank Chair Wilson for being so generous with his time, and taking on the herculean task of creating a medical, and adult use industry with only the mistakes that other states have made to guide him, and this Committee. While no bill is perfect, this is a very good first step to setting Maryland as the national model for creating a functioning, and equitable cannabis industry.

One of the suggested amendments, which we have named, the “*George Jefferson Amendment*,” is as follows:

“Have lived in a disproportionately impacted area for at least 5 of the 30 years immediately preceding the submission of the application:”

Additionally, we respectfully ask this Committee to right a wrong that has never been addressed. The following language would apply to the 3 groups we identified that would be considered in this amendment:

"If you are designated as an alternate by the MMCC, have maintained at least 50% of the original ownership, and at least one member is a Maryland resident, one can re-apply, without a fee, to the state authority overseeing the implementation of this statute, and receive immediate Stage One "Pre-approval," with 365 days to become operational."

For the stated reasons, we ask for a FAVORABLE report on HB556 with the amendments suggested. Please contact Darrell Carrington at darrell.carrington@verizon.net, if you have questions, or would like additional information.