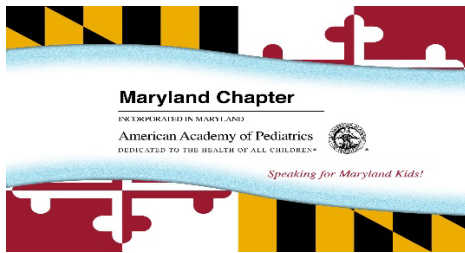


SB0249 - House_FAV_MDAAP_MVA - Driver Education Pr

Uploaded by: Christine Krone

Position: FAV



TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee
The Honorable Benjamin F. Kramer

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

DATE: March 23, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 249 – *Motor Vehicle Administration – Driver Education Program – Cannabis*

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 249.

Senate Bill 249 will require the Motor Vehicle Administration to include information on the laws relating to, and the risks of, driving while under the influence of cannabis or alcohol in the curriculum for a standardized driver education program.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has a policy statement on *The Impact of Marijuana Policies on Youth: Clinical, Research, and Legal Update*. The policy statement clearly outlines the consequences of marijuana use which includes “...impaired short-term memory and decreased concentration, attention span, and problem solving, ... Alterations in motor control, coordination, judgment, reaction time, and tracking ability have also been documented; these may contribute to unintentional deaths and injuries among adolescents (especially those associated with motor vehicles if adolescents drive while intoxicated by marijuana)”.¹

For the reasons stated in the policy statement, MDAAP strongly urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 249 so that young drivers are aware of the implications while driving under the influence.

¹ PEDIATRICS (ISSN Numbers: Print, 0031-4005; Online, 1098-4275). (2015, March). The impact of marijuana policies on youth: Clinical, research ... - AAPVT. American Academy of Pediatrics. Retrieved February 14, 2023, from <http://aapvt.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/AAPPolicyStatement.pdf>

AAA's Support of SB 249 - Motor Vehicle Administra

Uploaded by: Ragina Ali

Position: FAV



**AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 249
Motor Vehicle Administration - Driver Education Program – Cannabis**

Sponsor: Senator Kramer

- AAA Mid-Atlantic **supports Senate Bill 249**, which requires the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration to “*include information on the laws relating to and the risks of driving while under the influence of cannabis,*” as part of the state’s driver’s education curriculum.
- AAA’s concerns about the legalization of recreational cannabis have always been based upon the inherent risks to traffic safety.
- Fatal crashes involving drivers who were delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)-positive doubled in Washington state after cannabis legalization, according to research by the [AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety \(2020\)](#).¹ Crash rates and insurance claims also increased in Colorado, Nevada and Oregon after recreational cannabis legalization passed. (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 2018) ².
- [Data from the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice](#) shows the number of fatalities with cannabinoid-only or cannabinoid-in-combination (with other drugs and alcohol) positive drivers increased 153%, from 55 in 2013 to 139 in 2017. ³
- Cannabis can affect people differently, making it challenging to develop consistent and fair guidelines, and there continues to be insufficient scientific data to provide motorists with guidance on the use of the drug in a way that does not impact their ability to drive safely.
- With the use of recreational cannabis slated to take effect in a few months in Maryland, AAA wants to ensure that an intensive public education campaign, with a focus on the dangers of drugged driving takes place.
- We are supportive of SB 249, as its passage would incorporate critical information in Maryland’s current driver’s education curriculum to new drivers concerning the risks of using cannabis and getting behind the wheel of a vehicle.
- [According to AAA, to date, 22 states](#) have legalized recreational cannabis, but only Massachusetts has incorporated a driver’s education component as a result of that legalization.
- As an advocate for the safety of motorists and all roadway users, AAA remains concerned by the safety implications of individuals driving impaired whether it be by alcohol, cannabis or other drugs.

- On behalf of AAA Mid-Atlantic's over one million Maryland members, we thank Senator Kramer for sponsoring this legislation and urge the Committee to give **SB 249** a **favorable** report.

¹[Legalization of recreational marijuana increases crash risk \(AAA, 2020\)](#)

²[Crashes rise in first states to begin legalized retail sales of recreational marijuana, \(Colorado, Nevada, Oregon and Washington\) \(Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and Highway Loss Data Institute October 18, 2018\)](#)

³[Impacts of Marijuana Legalization in Colorado – A Report pursuant to Senate Bill 13-283, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, October 2018](#)

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SB0249 - MVA - Driver Ed Cannabis or Alcohol - LOI

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO



Wes Moore
Governor
Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor
Paul J. Wiedefeld
Secretary

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 249 – Motor Vehicle Administration - Driver Education Program – Cannabis or Alcohol

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 249 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

Senate Bill 249 would require the MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to include in its driver's education curriculum information relating to the laws and risks of driving under the influence of cannabis or alcohol.

The MVA oversees compliance with curriculum standards taught in the approximately 150 driver's education schools across the State. The MVA develops a standardized curriculum for driver's education schools in the State based on national standards and provides the 10 units in its curriculum for the public to view via its website.

Currently, Unit 9 of the driver's education curriculum addresses impaired driving, including driving while under the effects of cannabis. The MVA's inclusion of cannabis is part of an overall focus on making safe decisions behind the wheel of a motor vehicle and includes alcohol and both illegal and legal drug use in combination with driving. This portion of the curriculum includes discussion about the legal consequences of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, including cannabis. Talking points also include how the effects of cannabis and alcohol on the body impact driving abilities.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 249.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090