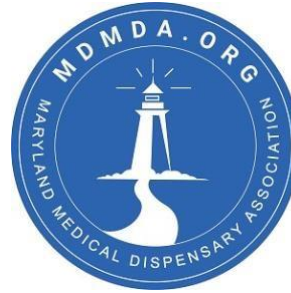


2023 MDMDA CANMD SB 525 SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Ashlie Bagwell

Position: FAV



Testimony in Support of
Senate Bill 525—Economic Development—Program Participation—Cannabis Business
Establishments

Senate Finance Committee
March 9, 2023

The Maryland Medical Dispensary Association (MDMDA) and the Maryland Wholesale Medical Cannabis Trade Association (CANMD) appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 525—Economic Development—Program Participation—Cannabis Business Establishments.

Senate Bill 525—Cannabis Reform, which was heard on February 17th, focuses on equity and participation in Maryland’s cannabis market by providing, among other things, licensing opportunities to social equity applicants. In addition, the bill sets policies and establishes programs to provide support to these new potential licensees so that they can compete and succeed in the new market. Senate Bill 525 seeks to provide similar support by making additional State programs accessible to cannabis licensees. Senate Bill 525 would prohibit the Department of Commerce from denying licensees or potential licensees participation in any of their economic development-related programs and access to their resources solely because the applicant is a cannabis establishment. With the number of people working in and with the cannabis industry growing every year, supporting these businesses is consistent with the Department’s charge to facilitate the attraction, creation, expansion and retention of business and jobs in the State.

Because Senate Bill 525 treats Maryland’s cannabis businesses like every other legal business in the State, CANMD and MDMDA urge a favorable vote.

SB0525_Cecil County Chamber of Commerce.pdf

Uploaded by: Katie Lewis

Position: FAV



Government Relations Committee Meeting

Cecil County Chamber of Commerce
Elkton, Maryland

Senate Bill 525

Economic Development – Program Participation – Cannabis Business Establishments

LEGISLATIVE POSITION: Request Favorable Report

March 8, 2023

Dear Chair Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce and our over 400 member companies, I am writing to express our support of **SB 525**, which, if enacted, would affirm the equitable treatment of state-licensed cannabis business establishments in state economic development programs and benefits.

As a matter of basic fairness and equity, if a state-licensed business entity satisfies the requirements of an economic development program under Title 5 of the Code of Maryland, or is eligible for a project tax credit under Title 6 of the Code of Maryland, it should not be prohibited from eligibility solely because it is a cannabis establishment.

For the reasons noted above, we respectfully **request a favorable report**.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Members of Cecil County Chamber Government Relations Committee
mmcray@cecilchamber.com
410-392-3833

SB 525 testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Cramer Wagner

Position: FAV



SB 525 – FAV

March 8, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

I am pleased to submit the following testimony for **Senate Bill 525: Economic Development - Program Participation - Cannabis Business Establishments** on behalf of Grow West LLC. By way of background, Grow West MD is a licensed cannabis cultivator and dispensary operator in Cumberland, MD.

Grow West MD was founded in 2016 by our family, Maryland small business owner/operators and life-long residents of Maryland.

Aware of the opportunity the business could bring to residents of a region deeply affected by the retreat of industry, we chose to build our cultivation center and dispensary in Cumberland. Grow West now occupies the former Kelly Springfield Tire Manufacturing Complex, which was sitting idle for almost three decades. Bringing this property back to life not only provided an ongoing economic and strong psychological boost to the region but placed it back on the tax rolls.

From the beginning, Grow West invested in the community. Our construction projects, which transformed the Kelly Buildings into a gleaming modern cultivation center, employed local contractors and tradespeople for over 24 months.

With only eighteen employees in 2018, the Grow West team is now one hundred fifty employees strong. Grow West provides good jobs, sustaining wages, health benefits and 401K's, allowing employees to stay in their towns, purchase homes and cars, support local business, economic development and build a strong community. Our company is a major contributor to community events and vital community assets like the Western Maryland Food



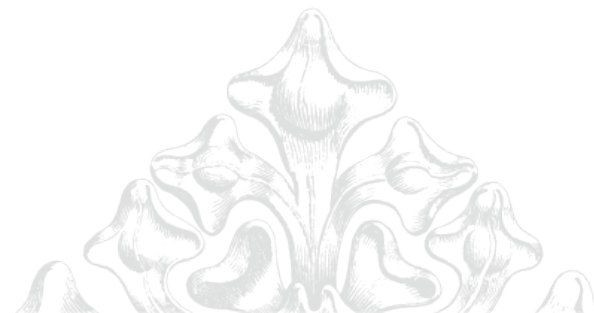
Bank. A recent Cumberland Times-News article included interviews with our employees. That article is appended to this testimony.

As a major employer in Allegany County, Grow West is currently excluded from One Maryland Tax Credit, Job Creation Tax Credit, and other programs targeted for communities in Western Maryland and Baltimore City. These important tax incentives are available not available to cannabis companies but are offered to other businesses, many of whom make less of a positive economic impact.

We respectfully ask this Committee, give favorable consideration to SB 525. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. Should you or your staff have any questions regarding these matters, I can be reached at susan.valois@growwestmd.com.

Sincerely,

Susan D. Valois, President, Chairman of the Board
Grow West MD

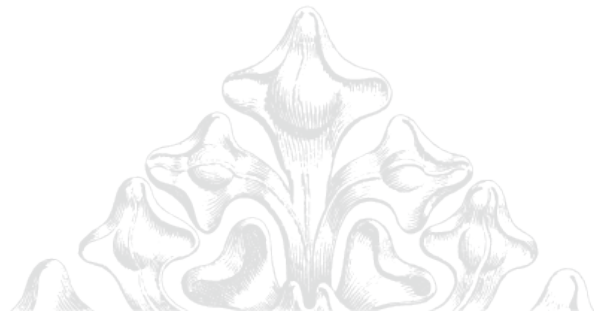




Grow West

← MD. →

CANNABIS COMPANY



SB 525.pdf

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 416
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3565 · 301-858-3565
800-492-7122 Ext. 3565
Mike.McKay@senate.state.md.us

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Bill 525 – Economic Development – Program Participation – Cannabis Business Establishment

March 5, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Griffith, Vice Chairwoman Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee,

Currently, there is an untapped industry that can bring jobs and revenue to the State of Maryland.

Licensed cannabis cultivators and dispensaries are a new way to bring jobs and economic opportunities to the state and particularly the Appalachia Region that I proudly represent. In Cumberland, there is a company called Grow West, that specializes in growing and dispensing cannabis specifically for medical purposes. They have brought 150 jobs to the area and are looking to grow even more.

With this bill, enterprises such as Grow West would be able to apply for licenses for economic development and financial assistance. They would not be denied by the Department of Commerce and under the guise of Maryland Law, growth, processing, and dispensing of cannabis would increase as eligible business activities under the Job Creation and One Maryland tax credit programs.

Thank you very much and I ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Senator Mike McKay, District 1

Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland

Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties

SB525_SponsorAmendment

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV



SB0525/453126/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

08 FEB 23
16:49:01

BY: Senator McKay
(To be offered in the Finance Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 525
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 10, after “circumstances;” insert “authorizing certain cannabis business entities to reapply for benefits under certain economic development programs;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 10, after “(C)” insert “(1)”; and after line 16, insert:

“(2) IF, BEFORE JULY 1, 2023, A BUSINESS ENTITY DESCRIBED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION WAS DENIED A PROGRAM BENEFIT UNDER THIS TITLE SOLELY BECAUSE THE BUSINESS ENTITY WAS A CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENT, THE BUSINESS ENTITY MAY REAPPLY FOR THE PROGRAM.”

On page 3, in line 9, after “(A-1)” insert “(1)”; and after line 14, insert:

“(2) IF, BEFORE JULY 1, 2023, A BUSINESS ENTITY DESCRIBED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION WAS DENIED CERTIFICATION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SOLELY BECAUSE THE BUSINESS ENTITY WAS A CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENT, THE BUSINESS ENTITY MAY REAPPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR CERTIFICATION.”