



Good Afternoon Honorable Senators,

SB516 – Favorable With Amendment

I am Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat Mahoney providing testimony on behalf of the Town Council and citizens asking you to give SB516 (Cannabis Reform) a favorable report with amendment.

The amendment being that SB516 include language that **honors pre-existing municipal zoning regulations, relating to cannabis dispensaries, that were enacted before January 1, 2023.**

In 2022 (Ordinance O-22-12) the Town of Chesapeake Beach unanimously adopted zoning regulations that specifically do not permit cannabis dispensaries (recreational/medical) within our town limits. This ordinance and regulations were part of an overall Town Comprehensive Plan. Numerous Public Hearings were held with no citizen opposition and unanimous support (6-0 vote) from the Town Council.

Pardon me for taking this liberty to offer suggested verbiage: page 49, line 5 of SB516 could be amended to read:

2) Establish zoning or other requirements that unduly burden a cannabis licensee **unless such zoning regulations were enacted before January 1, 2023.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Mayor Patrick J. Mahoney

Chesapeake Beach