



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.