

**Bill Number: HB 135**  
**Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County**  
**Opposed**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT D. SHELLENBERGER,**  
**STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY,**  
**IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 135**  
**CRIMINAL LAW – CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES AND FIREARMS**

I write in opposition to House Bill 135, Controlled Dangerous Substances and Firearms. While I am opposed to the majority of this Bill, I am not opposed to the charges for smoking in public.

The first problem with this Bill is it changes from a felony to a misdemeanor, a charge of being a volume marijuana dealer. Second it changes the possible sentence from 5 years without parole to 10 years with parole but which is also suspendable.

The volume dealer sections of the law were created for those dealers who are clearly more than just supporting a habit. Fifty pounds of marijuana is 530 times the amount of marijuana this Legislature has determined to be personal use (1.5 oz). Attached please find a picture of 50 pounds of marijuana. One pound of marijuana can make approximately 453 joints. Think how many joints 50 pounds can make. In addition, very often volume dealers also carry guns. This type of large dealing often leads to violence and home invasions.

A misdemeanor? Why should Maryland differentiate the most serious of drug dealers because they are selling cannabis and not other drugs.

This is especially true when you consider the amount you determined to be personal use. The Bill goes on to give drug kingpins a break. This does not make sense. While I like the increases in handgun sentences it should not come at the expense of dealing with volume dealers