

Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys' Association



Md House of Delegates – Judiciary Committee

February 7, 2023

Hearing on HB 173

Administration – Paraphernalia Decriminalization

MCDAA POSITION: SUPPORT

Brief bill explanation: This bill decriminalizes certain specific paraphernalia, including paraphernalia commonly used to smoke or ingest marijuana. The bill also decriminalizes possession of syringes adapted to administer CDS. Further, it lowers the penalties of possession of OTHER paraphernalia from 2 years and \$2,000 to 1 year and \$1,000.

MCDAA's position: We support the sponsor's attempt to bring Maryland law concerning paraphernalia into line with Maryland's recent legalization of marijuana use, in limited quantities and for medical and personal consumption. Current law creates the confusing scenario that a person in Maryland may now smoke marijuana legally, but may not legally possess the pipe to smoke it in. We support the legislation, but our support is not dependent upon the legislation's inclusion of the non-marijuana paraphernalia and/or the lowering of the penalties.

For additional information or questions regarding this legislation, please contact MCDAA Government Relations Contact John Giannetti 410.300.6393, JohnGiannetti.mcdaa@gmail.com