



MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

HB 199 Multifamily Dwellings - Smoking Policies
FAVORABLE
House Environment and Transportation Committee

To Chairman Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the committee,

Individuals typically learn that they are exposed to discomfort and risks only after they have purchased a residential unit, resulting in frustration, disagreements and litigation.

This bill is not burdensome; rather, it will prevent greater burdens due to a lack of clear expectations. It will prevent serious chronic disease in a flexible manner determined by residents themselves.

Litigation (in the District of Columbia) has already resulted from the lack of a clear process for determining policies in multi-dwelling residential settings.

Individuals in separate units of multi-family buildings are exposed to second hand smoke from other units. Sensitive individuals may find this intolerable; others find that the odor is merely unpleasant. Still others may not detect these odors but are nevertheless exposed to risks.

Second-hand smoke has been classified by the Environmental Protection agency as a Class A human carcinogen for which there is no safe level of exposure. This finding has been confirmed by the U.S. Surgeon General, who has also concluded that separating smokers from nonsmokers in the same building cannot eliminate exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), secondhand smoke causes nearly 34,000 premature deaths from heart disease each year in the United States among adults who do not smoke.

Healthy individuals are susceptible to discomfort and health consequences of second-hand smoke. Some individuals are highly intolerant to second hand smoke and experience a great deal of discomfort. Children, pregnant persons and those with health conditions such as asthma, are at disproportionate risk.

Preliminary data show that secondhand cannabis smoke presents many of the same health risks as tobacco smoke.

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