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Governor

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Lieutenant Governor



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## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 346

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The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy's (GOCPP) role is to advise the Governor on criminal justice strategies, coordinate across public safety agencies, and allocate resources Statewide to support public safety.

House Bill 346 updates laws and penalties related to being a volume dealer and illegally trafficking firearms. The bill authorizes adults over the age of 21 to manufacture cannabis products for personal use or adult sharing at a private home if the manufacturing process does not involve volatile solvents. The bill establishes that manufacturing or dealing in large quantities of specified controlled substances is a felony; provides for the reduction of some mandatory minimum sentences related to manufacturing or dealing in large amounts of cocaine; changes the penalties for manufacturing or dealing in large quantities of cannabis; and provides for the reduction of some mandatory minimum sentences related to manufacturing or dealing in large amounts of cannabis. House Bill 346 makes possessing, selling, or transferring a stolen or otherwise prohibited firearm and unlawfully selling or trafficking any firearm a felony.

HB346 addresses the plagues of *illegal* drug and firearm trafficking, the sources of so much violence in Maryland communities. This bill is a decisive statement of Maryland's commitment to holding people who cause harm accountable and to reforming overly harsh sentencing practices that have disproportionately affected Black communities. This bill aligns with Governor Moore's vision for the State, where people are safe in their homes and communities and safe in their skin.

HB346 will promote safety, accountability, and fairness in Maryland.

**GOCPP urges the House Judiciary Committee to favorably report on House Bill 346.**