



February 25, 2025

The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Chair, House Economic Matters Committee
230 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**HB 1235 – Queen Anne's County - Licensed Cannabis Dispensary and Processor Locations -
Distance Requirements**
UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) in OPPOSITION of HB 1235 – Queen Anne's County - Licensed Cannabis Dispensary and Processor Locations - Distance Requirements.

HB 1235 prohibits a licensed cannabis processor or dispensary in Queen Anne's County from locating within 1,000 feet of child care facilities and certain other pre-existing public places in the county. Under current law, there are no distance restrictions for licensed processors, and the statewide standard prohibits a dispensary from locating within 500 feet from child care facilities or certain other pre-existing public places.

When drafting the Cannabis Reform Act, it was the legislature's intent to distribute dispensaries proportionally across the state. HB 1235 establishes different standards for different jurisdictions, applying a more restrictive standard to social equity licensees in one county relative to the statewide standard. This legislation would decrease the number of available locations where cannabis dispensaries and processors could operate in Queen Anne's County. Dispensaries, which are licensed to operate per county and are often small, individually-owned businesses, would face greater restrictions to find a viable location in Queen Anne's County than other counties.

Furthermore, this legislation sets a precedent that could lead to pockets of the State that would not have access to safe, legal cannabis. This is especially concerning for MCA's medical population based in Queen Anne's County – which in [2023](#) accounted for at least 1% of the state's overall medical patients – who would have to travel farther for access to their medication.

Ultimately, HB 1235 is antithetical to the legislature's intent to achieve proportionate distribution of cannabis businesses across the State, and to provide a safe, equitable, and accessible medical and adult-use cannabis industry for qualifying patients and adult consumers in Maryland. For these reasons stated above, we urge the committee for an unfavorable report on HB 1235. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact me at (443) 462-6225 or alison.butler@maryland.gov, or Selena Rawlley, Senior Policy Analyst, at selena.rawlley@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Alison Butler

Alison Butler
Division Chief, Policy Implementation