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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Economic Matters Committee

HB1347-Cannabis Agents-Registrations-Security Guards

State of Support by Bill Sponsor Delegate Christopher T. Adams

Thank you Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby, and members of the distinguished House Economic Matters Committee for this opportunity to present House Bill 1347-Cannabis Agents-Registration-Security Guards. This legislation would eliminate an unnecessary redundancy in statute which currently requires those in the security guard industry to submit fingerprints or a national criminal history records check to the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) even if they already are certified by the Maryland State Police (MSP).

This redundancy of both MSP and MCA regulating the security guard industry leads to the following:

- 1) The security guard industry is the only profession in Maryland regulated by two different Maryland entities (MSP and MCA) to perform the same function;
- 2) MCA requires a security plan, including emergency protocol, be submitted as part of the completed registration form, with no indication of how the security plan would be reviewed or safeguarded; and
- 3) MCA requires fingerprinting and criminal history records check be submitted, which are already submitted to MSP.

We identified that the third concern – the fingerprint and background checks – must be addressed with a statutory change, resulting in the legislation before you. Should HB1347 be implemented, MCA would use proof of MSP security guard certification to verify that the prospective agent is eligible to work on the premises of a cannabis licensee or registrant.

We will continue to work with the MCA to address the remaining concerns through the regulatory process. The MCA has already suggested regulatory changes to remove the emergency plan requirement, and the public comment period for those changes ended on January 27, 2025.

As many of you know, following the passage of Question 4 during the 2022 elections, the Maryland General Assembly was required to establish the statutory framework for legal cannabis industry in Maryland. The Maryland General Assembly passed and Governor Moore signed the Cannabis Reform Act of 2023 (Chapters 254/255 of 2023) into law, which required all cannabis agents to submit fingerprints to the MCA.

Under HB1347, a security guard would still register with MCA as a cannabis agent; however, it eliminates an unnecessary redundancy for the security guard to submit fingerprints for both MCA agent registration and MSP certification.

The Maryland Cannabis Administration supports HB1347.

When any new industry is created, unforeseen issues are identified within the first few years of implementation that must be addressed to remove unnecessary burdens and for the industry to work effectively. This requirement for MCA to gather fingerprints and criminal history checks is an unnecessary burden on both the security guard industry and MCA.

I thank you for your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully request a favorable report.