



Senate Bill 215: Cannabis—On-Site Consumption Establishments and Cannabis Events

On behalf of the Maryland Dispensary Association (MDDA)
House Economic Matters Committee

Support

March 27, 2025

The Maryland Dispensary Association (MDDA), formerly the Maryland Medical Dispensary Association (MDMDA), was established in May, 2017 in order to promote the common interests and goals of the Medical Cannabis Dispensaries in Maryland. MDDA advocates for laws, regulations and public policies that foster a healthy, professional and secure medical cannabis industry in the State. MDDA works on the State and local level to advance the interest of licensed dispensaries as well as to provide a forum for the exchange of information in the Medical Cannabis Industry. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 215.

Two years ago, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation, setting up both a policy and taxing framework for cannabis for adult use. This bill focused on increasing diversity in the cannabis industry while at the same time setting up a taxing structure so as to greatly minimize the illicit market. We commend you for the work you did to create a successful cannabis program in Maryland, and we are proud to be your partners in that.

We appreciate the addition of two amendments added to Senate Bill 215 by the Senate Finance Committee:

- An amendment to allow existing dispensaries to continue delivering medical cannabis to patients. No micro-dispensary licenses are up and running yet, which means that, without this amendment, delivery would not be an option for medical patients starting July 1, 2025. Without this, some medical patients would be unable to access medical cannabis.

- An amendment to require local jurisdictions to allow social equity licensees to locate, subject to the zoning and setback requirements outlined in Senate Bill 537/House Bill 805 that passed last year. Currently, there are counties and municipalities that are either imposing stricter requirements for cannabis businesses or claiming that cannabis for adult use is illegal. We have consistently supported measures that ensure access to cannabis is spread uniformly, geographically speaking. This is one way to move people into the regulated market from the illicit market. For this reason, we strongly support this amendment.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 215. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.