



Senate Bill 215

Cannabis - On-Site Consumption Establishments and Cannabis Events

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

WITH AMENDMENTS

Date: January 30, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 215 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill allows the holder of a cannabis event registration to host certain cannabis events and authorizes counties to assess fees, authorize events, or restrict them within their jurisdictions. MACo respectfully requests modest clarifying amendments to preserve local authority and ensure effective oversight.

Specifically, the legislation should explicitly state that any cannabis event authorized by the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) must also comply with all applicable local permits and approvals. This safeguard will uphold counties' ability to regulate events and ensure they align with community standards. Additionally, the bill should clarify that licensed cannabis events must adhere to any locally established restrictions or regulations, empowering counties to tailor rules based on specific needs and priorities.

MACo is grateful for the opportunity to work collaboratively with MCA to refine the proposed amendments, listed on the next page. MCA has expressed agreement that the changes align with the intent of the bill and provide needed clarity. These adjustments will help ensure cannabis events are responsibly managed while avoiding unnecessary burdens on local governments.

MACo's amendments provide important flexibility to address local community needs while ensuring the success of cannabis events. Counties remain committed to fostering responsible cannabis use and supporting economic opportunities, while safeguarding public health and safety.

For these reasons, MACo urges the Committee to give SB 215 a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report.

MACo Amendments on SB 215:

- Page 4, line 22, after “GENERAL ARTICLE” insert
“IN ORDER TO OPERATE AS A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY, THE ON-SITE CONSUMPTION ESTABLISHMENT MUST OBTAIN ALL LOCAL COUNTY APPROVALS FOR A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ALL NECESSARY BUILDING CODE PERMITS, MECHANICAL CODE PERMITS, AND ALL OTHER APPLICABLE PERMITS, AS WELL AS A USE AND OCCUPANCY CERTIFICATE AND APPROPRIATE LICENSES.”
- Page 10, line 4, strike “SUBJECT TO” through “SUBTITLE,”
- Page 10, line 8, after “(2)” insert **“REQUIRE THE EVENT REGISTRANT TO OBTAIN APPROVAL OR A PERMIT FOR THE EVENT; OR”**
- Page 10, line 8, insert “**(3)**” before “ASSESS AN”