



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

January 30, 2025

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: SB 215 - Cannabis - On-Site Consumption Establishments and Cannabis Events

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports SB 215, which makes alterations to the operations of cannabis on-site consumption facilities and creates a process to establish a “cannabis event.” These businesses and events offer opportunities to boost economic development while maintaining local authority and generating additional tax revenue. While the bill touches on many aspects of on-site consumption facilities and cannabis events, we will focus on the provisions that are most impactful to municipal governments.

Municipalities are often the economic, social, cultural, and population hubs of their region. Many cities host festivals, parades, and events that bring the community closer together while drawing visitors from out of town. This new industry provides additional opportunities to bring people together while highlighting all municipalities have to offer. The way the bill is constructed, local governments retain the local authority to determine whether these facilities or events are the right fit for their jurisdiction.

Under current law, on-site consumption facilities are authorized to operate in the State after obtaining a license from the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA). Local governments already have the authority to regulate the zoning of these establishments, limit smoking on the premises, and prohibit their operation within the jurisdiction; this bill adds additional local authority to restrict operating hours.

“Cannabis event” is a new term that would allow for consumption of cannabis products on the premises of an event after acquiring a permit from MCA. The proposed framework around the permit and execution of these events provides significant local authority while also offering additional sales tax revenue.



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For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 215. For more information, please contact Bill Jorch, Director, Public Policy and Research at billj@mdmunicipal.org. Thank you for your consideration.

The Maryland Municipal League uses its collective voice to advocate, empower and protect the interests of our 160 local governments members and elevates local leadership, delivers impactful solutions for our communities, and builds an inclusive culture for the 2 million Marylanders we serve.

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