



Maryland State's Attorneys' Association

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DATE: **January 27, 2025**

BILL NUMBER: **SB 370**

POSITION: **Unfavorable**

The Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (MSAA) opposes Senate Bill 370 and urges this Committee to issue an unfavorable report.

SB 370 is one of a few bills to be considered by the General Assembly this session that deal with the criminalization of and penalty associated with drug paraphernalia. Unlike more measured legislation – including House Bill 260, which is supported by MSAA with limited amendment – this bill completely decriminalizes most drug paraphernalia used to consume controlled dangerous substances. Devices used to ingest drugs, whether by injection or by inhaling, would be legal to possess, leaving law enforcement with limited options to address public drug use and restricting their ability to intervene and connect those struggling with addiction to treatment.

While MSAA is in favor of harmonizing the penalties for drug paraphernalia, and focusing on helping those with substance abuse challenges to find treatment options as opposed to imposing punitive sanctions, SB 370 sends an unfortunate and dangerous message about drug paraphernalia, one that will leave our communities less safe in the midst of an opioid crisis. MSAA urges this committee to reject this bill in favor of the other, more narrowly-tailored options available this legislative session.