



## Maryland State's Attorneys' Association

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**DATE:**                    **January 31, 2025**

**BILL NUMBER:**       **HB 413**

**POSITION:**            **Favorable with Amendment**

The Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (MSAA) supports House Bill 413 with amendments that focus the bill exclusively on firearm offenses.

HB 413 makes a number of adjustments to Maryland's laws governing controlled dangerous substances and firearms. As regards firearms, this bill changes a number of the offenses contained in the Public Safety Article – including transfer of a stolen firearm and manufacture or sale of a firearm without a manufacturer's identification mark – from a misdemeanor violation to a felony. These provisions are well-considered and critically important, particularly given the proliferation of privately-manufactured firearms, or ghost guns, in our communities.

The resentencing procedures for certain serious drug convictions, as well as the decreased penalty for trafficking large amounts of cannabis, however, are ill-advised. Relaxing accountability for those convicted of these serious drug offenses, like trafficking large quantities of drugs or of organizing, financing, or supervising a conspiracy to traffic drugs, regardless of the underlying drug trafficked, sends a dangerous message – despite its legalization at the state level, Maryland's communities are still experiencing violence related to the illegal distribution of cannabis. Reducing penalties or revising sentences for these offenses gives a green light to those that would continue to disrupt our communities by engaging in illegal behavior backed by the violence inherent in the illegal drug trade.