



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Favorable: HB 556 – Drug Paraphernalia for Administration – Decriminalization

Hearing on 2/11/2025 at 1:00pm

To: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett and my Fellow Members of the Judiciary Committee

HB 556 – Drug Paraphernalia for Administration – Decriminalization removes penalties associated with possession for regular use items associated with drug consumption such as measuring spoons and reduces the drug-related charges.

This bill was introduced in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024. It passed the House in 2021, 2022, and 2023. In 2021, this bill passed the House and Senate and was vetoed by the Governor.

Substance abuse is a community health crisis.

Harsh substance abuse penalties stigmatize usage rather than address the issue.

Harsh penalties create barriers to care without improving public safety.

Fear of arrest and criminalization often prevent individuals from having access to sterile supplies, leading to further health consequences such as overdose and disease transmission.

This bill removes obstacles to treatment.

In conclusion, I respectfully request a favorable report for HB 0556 – Drug Paraphernalia for Administration – Decriminalization to appropriately modernize existing law.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.