



TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: House Economic Matters

DATE: March 4, 2026

POSITION: Favorable with Amendments

BILL: HB 1519

The Maryland Municipal League (MML), representing 161 local governments in Maryland, requests a favorable with amendments report on House Bill 1519. While MML understands the legislative intent to provide clarity for cannabis licensees regarding advertising and management agreements, this bill—as currently drafted—presents a subtle risk of preempting local authority over community aesthetics and land use.

Municipalities are the primary stewards of their local business districts. Our members rely on the ability to enforce uniform sign ordinances to maintain the character of their communities and protect property values.

As HB 1519 seeks to alter the advertising and penalties landscape for cannabis, it is imperative that the State does not inadvertently create a carve-out that exempts these businesses from local regulations. The authority to determine where, how large, and in what manner commercial signage is displayed should remain a local prerogative.

To resolve the potential for legal ambiguity or state-level implied preemption, MML asks for the adoption of the following amendment. This language ensures that while the State sets the "floor" for cannabis advertising, it does not remove the "ceiling" of local zoning standards:

Amendment 1: *On page 9, after line 19, insert: “(D) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to preempt or supersede the authority of a municipal corporation or county to adopt or enforce a local ordinance or regulation governing the size, location, or placement of signs or advertisements.”*

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable with amendments report on HB 1519.

For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:

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