

**ADRIAN BOAFO**  
*Legislative District 23*  
Prince George's County

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

Economic Matters Committee

*Chair*  
Workers' Compensation  
Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 225  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3047  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3047  
Adrian.Boafo@house.maryland.gov

**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Chairwoman Kris Valderrama  
Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building, Room 230  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Valderrama, Vice-Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,  
HB797 addresses employment discrimination protections for fire and rescue public safety employees who are registered medical cannabis patients.

Under current Maryland law, individuals who are legally certified to use medical cannabis may still face employment consequences simply for testing positive for cannabis, even when the use is lawful and occurs outside of work. This creates uncertainty and potential discrimination for many workers who rely on medical cannabis to manage legitimate health conditions.

HB797 provides clarity and protection for fire and rescue public safety employees by prohibiting employers from disciplining, discharging, or otherwise discriminating against an employee solely because they hold a valid medical cannabis certification or test positive for cannabis components while holding that certification.

This bill does not weaken workplace safety standards. Employers would still be able to prohibit the use of cannabis while on duty and may continue to enforce policies that prevent employees from performing their duties while impaired.

The bill also preserves federal compliance protections by making clear that nothing in the legislation requires an employer to violate federal law or risk losing federal funding or licensing benefits.

In short, HB797 ensures that public safety employees who are legally using medical cannabis outside of work are not unfairly discriminated against, while still maintaining strong workplace safety protections and clear employer authority to prevent impairment on the job.

For those reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB797.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian A. Boafo'.

Delegate Adrian A. Boafo