



Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MDVMA)

Established in 1886, MDVMA is a volunteer, non-profit organization comprised primarily of licensed Maryland Veterinarians.

SB0054 - State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners - Grounds for Disciplinary Action - Restrictions

Committee: Environment and Transportation

March 30, 2026

MDVMA Position: SUPPORT

On behalf of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, we submit this supporting testimony of SB54 State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners – Grounds for Disciplinary Action – Restrictions.

We appreciate the effort of the sponsorship of this legislation to remove a layer of ambiguity which increases unnecessary risk for veterinary practitioners in our state. Veterinary practitioners who maintain and hold CDS and DEA licensure will still be subject to the laws and regulations pertaining to them but by removing the state mandates that bar discussion with their clientele, veterinarians in the state would be better able to educate clients and keep animals safe.

This text would technically authorize veterinarians within Maryland to recommend and prescribe these products and it is recognized this conflicts with official DEA/Federal provisions. However, we are not concerned with this apparent conflict because we do not believe it presents a substantive issue or risk to veterinary practitioners. With the adoption of this bill Maryland veterinarians would have no obligation to recommend or prescribe such products and if it becomes legal to do so under federal guidelines this law has removed the ambiguity that would exist for Maryland veterinarians if this language were not changed. Meanwhile this text addresses the issue of the Maryland Practice Act specifically providing sanctions against them simply for hosting a conversation in the exam room.

Pet owners are commonly requesting information about CBD derivatives for their pets and veterinarians have been in the cross-hairs of being largely unable to advise clients even on how to safely use the products they are already purchasing from over-the-counter sources. Many practitioners are uncomfortable having any conversation about these products because questions that arise in the conversation quickly become difficult to answer without enhanced professional liability. These products are readily available to the consuming public and with all supplements and medications there are inherent side effects, risks, benefits. Allowing practitioners to discuss and advise accordingly simply makes sense.

We support this effort that enhances the Veterinary Client Patient Relationship by allowing veterinarians to have conversations with clients without dictating to them what the conversation must be. This bill language supports the welfare of animals by ensuring veterinarians can be a part of the important conversations pertinent to their health when discussing CBD derivatives.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Weeman DVM MS
Legislative Committee Chair & Board Member
Maryland Veterinary Medical Association

MARYLAND VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION