

Testimony: SB 1008

Position: Unfavorable

Committee: Senate Finance

Hearing Date: March 31, 2026

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Warren Lemley, and I am the Chairman of the Legislative Policy Committee of the Maryland Dispensary Association. I am here today to testify **unfavorably of Senate Bill 1008.**

The MDDA (Maryland Dispensary Association) is in opposition of this bill. We have been the one and only cannabis license to consistently lose revenue streams. Medical delivery has been expected to be removed and now THC beverages are going to be sold outside of dispensaries as well? THC beverages are a fairly recent product entry and we expect that demand to grow over time. Why are we removing streams of revenue while expecting so many new dispensaries to successfully come to market?

We don't support this bill in its current form but if THC beverages were to be allowed to be sold at beer, wine and liquor stores then we think they should be distributed by dispensaries.

I would like to highlight some concerns and questions if we are legitimately considering selling THC outside of regulated and licensed dispensaries.

Will people between the ages of 8-20 be able to enter their establishments because they aren't allowed to enter cannabis dispensaries?

Will THC infused items be able to be seen from the public? Will they have to have privacy films?

Will beer, wine and liquor customers be able to pick up the THC beverages before purchase? Cannabis dispensary customers cannot touch products before they're sold to them.

Will their businesses be allowed to continue to use credit cards and normal banks?

Will their employees have to take Responsible Vendor Training?

Will their employees have to have background checks?

Will their businesses have to pay additional cannabis taxes?

Will their businesses have to pay additional licensing fees?

Will their employees be allowed to have a criminal background?

Will their employees have to become cannabis agents?

Will their businesses have the same advertising restrictions?

Will their businesses have the same restrictions on operational hours?

Will their businesses have to meet the same zoning requirements as dispensaries?

Will their stores have to install vaults?

Will THC beverages have to be stored in a vault? Will they have to be returned to a vault during non-operational hours?

Will their businesses have the same security requirements? Maintain facial recognition cameras at all entry points, exit points and where any THC products are stored or handled? Will they have to have controlled and tracked employee access through card and fob access control systems? Will they have to track their green waste and product damage and failure for the MCA?

Cannabis dispensaries have to traverse all of the requirements and regulations listed above since the beginning of our industry. It is our hope that any business with the ability to sell THC products would be subject to the same requirements that dispensaries have always had.

I urge an **unfavorable report on SB 1008**. Thank you.