



**Senate Finance Committee
March 31, 2026**

Senate Bill 1008 - Alcohol and Cannabis - Cannabinoid Beverages Off-Premises Sales Permit - Establishment

Unfavorable

The Maryland Chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence opposes Senate Bill 1008. This bill would allow licensed alcohol retailers with off-sale privileges to sell cannabinoid beverages. These beverages can contain up to five milligrams of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary intoxicant in cannabis. Currently, these products may only be sold by licensed and strictly regulated cannabis dispensaries. This means this bill proposes to increase from 111 to over 1500 retail outlets for a cannabis product. In addition, while people employed by licensed dispensaries are required to undergo significant training to safely sell cannabis products, the same is not true for employees at alcohol beverage retail establishments.

The change in policy proposed in Senate Bill 1008 would create serious public health concerns and enforcement challenges, and would undermine Maryland's social equity program. The bill also alters the distribution of cannabis tax revenue in a way that harms critical programs focused on public health, community reinvestment, and social equity in the cannabis industry.

For all these reasons, we urge this committee to give an unfavorable report to Senate Bill 1008.