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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony for Senator Hayes in Support of Senate Bill 820 — Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission – Unauthorized Consumable Products – Enforcement and Seizure

March 27, 2026

Dear Madam Chair Bagnell, Vice Chair Cullison and Members of the Health Committee,

Senate Bill 820 strengthens Maryland's ability to protect public health and consumer safety by addressing the growing presence of unauthorized consumable products in retail environments. These products, which may include unapproved or improperly marketed substances such as certain kratom, tianeptine, or phenibut products, present significant risks due to inconsistent labeling, unknown potency, and potential contamination.

This legislation provides clear authority for the Field Enforcement Division of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission to take action when retailers distribute, sell, or advertise unauthorized consumable products. The bill establishes a comprehensive enforcement framework that allows regulators to issue citations, seize contraband products, and ensure compliance with Maryland health and safety standards.

SB 820 also prohibits retailers from offering for sale consumable products that have not been approved for human consumption or that are marketed in ways that violate state health protections. By authorizing seizure and forfeiture of unauthorized products and establishing meaningful penalties for violations, the bill creates accountability across the supply chain while supporting legitimate businesses that comply with the law.

Importantly, the legislation enhances coordination between the Maryland Department of Health and the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission to ensure timely regulatory oversight as product standards evolve. This proactive approach strengthens consumer protections while preserving fairness and clarity for retailers operating within Maryland's regulatory framework.

SB 820 represents a balanced and necessary step to safeguard Maryland residents from potentially harmful consumable products, reinforce responsible retail practices, and provide law enforcement with the tools needed to respond effectively to emerging public health concerns.

I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 820.

Respectfully,

Senator Antonio L. Hayes

40th Legislative District — MD