



Governor Wes Moore

Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

Acting Secretary Walter L. Simmons

Bill Number: House Bill 427
Title: Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances -
Extension
Committee: Health Committee
Hearing Date: February 10, 2026
Position: Favorable

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 427. The Office of Social Equity (OSE) within the Department of Social and Economic Mobility (DoSEM) works to ensure that equity, public health, and community impact remain central to Maryland's evolving substance policy framework, making the continued work of this Task Force particularly relevant to our mission.

House Bill 427 extends the Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances through December 31, 2027, and requires an updated report to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 31, 2026. This legislation reflects Maryland's commitment to careful, evidence-based policymaking in emerging areas of substance use and public health.

The Task Force provides a structured forum for examining evolving research, public health considerations, and potential regulatory approaches related to natural psychedelic substances, while ensuring that discussions remain grounded in data, equity, and community impact. Extending the Task Force will allow its members to continue engaging experts, stakeholders, and impacted communities at a time when national research and policy conversations are rapidly developing, and will better equip policymakers with the information needed to guide future decisions.

For these reasons, DoSEM respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 427. Thank you for your time and consideration.