



Contact:
Maryland NORML
Luke Jones, Director
Luke.MDNORML@gmail.com

750 Thayer Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(202) 285-3199

Submitted to:
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Annapolis, MD – February 3, 2026

Testimony from the Maryland State Chapter of the
National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML)

SUPPORT SB0365
(Firearms – Right to Purchase, Own, Possess, and Carry)

Maryland NORML has no paid staff – we are entirely energized by a core group of citizen volunteers and more than 5,000 other Marylanders committed to ending marijuana prohibition and establishing a regulated cannabis commercial market for adults. I have never had any stake or investment of any kind in any cannabis enterprise, nor does anyone in my family, and I have never received any fee or remuneration for consulting with any cannabis enterprise. As an organization, we have worked to reform state and federal marijuana laws for more than 50 years.

Maryland NORML strongly support Senate Bill 315, which takes a necessary and overdue step to ensure that Maryland’s cannabis reform laws deliver meaningful, real-world relief to individuals harmed by prior cannabis criminalization. SB 315 appropriately clarifies expungement protections, prevents continued collateral consequences from expunged records, and requires the full removal of certain cannabis possession cases from the Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) system.

Maryland has already recognized that simple possession of cannabis should no longer carry criminal penalties. However, thousands of Marylanders continue to face barriers to employment, education, housing, licensing, and government services because records that are legally expunged remain functionally visible or are treated as disqualifying in practice. SB 315 closes this gap between statutory intent and lived experience.

First, the bill makes explicit that an individual’s lawful refusal to disclose expunged charges may not be used as the sole basis to deny a license, permit, registration, governmental service, or educational opportunity. This clarification is critical. Without it, expungement becomes a paper remedy rather than a meaningful protection. Individuals should not be forced to choose between exercising their legal rights and accessing basic opportunities necessary for economic stability and civic participation.

Second, SB 315 extends these protections to educational institutions, ensuring that students are not excluded or punished based on records that the State has already determined should no longer exist for legal purposes. This provision recognizes the long-term educational and workforce impacts of cannabis criminalization and helps prevent those harms from compounding across generations.



Contact:
Maryland NORML
Luke Jones, Director
Luke.MDNORML@gmail.com

750 Thayer Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(202) 285-3199

Third, the bill requires that the Maryland Electronic Courts system and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services remove all references to certain pre-July 1, 2023 cannabis possession cases. This is not a technical change—it is the core of effective expungement. As long as records remain accessible or inferable through court systems, individuals continue to face stigma, discrimination, and unjust scrutiny despite having complied fully with the law.

SB 315 reflects a broader principle that has guided Maryland’s approach to cannabis reform: when the State determines that certain conduct should no longer be criminalized, it has an obligation to undo the lasting harms of past enforcement. True justice requires more than legalization; it requires removing the legal and administrative barriers that prevent individuals from fully participating in society.

Maryland NORML urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 315.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Luke Jones", is written over the typed name below.

M. Luke Jones, Maryland NORML