

SB 406 Testimony.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Dawn Gile

Position: FAV

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of SB 406 - Criminal Law – Drug Trafficking Crime –
Definition**

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

SB 406 addresses a narrow but significant gap in Maryland’s criminal law that emerged following changes to how cannabis offenses are classified.

Under § 5-621 of the Criminal Law Article, Maryland imposes enhanced penalties when a person possesses or uses a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime. The purpose of that statute is straightforward: drug trafficking involving firearms presents a heightened risk of violence and danger to the public.

Historically, “drug trafficking crime” was defined as a drug felony, which included possession with intent to distribute and manufacture cannabis for sale. However, following changes enacted in 2023, certain cannabis trafficking offenses—specifically possession with intent to distribute cannabis and cultivating or manufacturing cannabis for sale—were reclassified as misdemeanors.

As a result, a gap has been created in the firearm statute.

Background

Today, if an individual is found with a dealer quantity of cannabis and a firearm—whether during a traffic stop or in the execution of a search warrant—that individual may now face only misdemeanor charges, even when the circumstances clearly reflect drug trafficking activity involving a firearm.

By contrast, if the same conduct involved another controlled dangerous substance, the firearm enhancement under § 5-621 would apply.

The practical effect is that selling cannabis while armed is treated as less dangerous under the statute than selling other drugs while armed, even though the presence of a

firearm in drug trafficking activity presents the same public safety risks regardless of the substance involved.

SB 406 restores consistency to Maryland law by addressing this unintended consequence.

Existing Law

Section 5-621 of the Criminal Law Article prohibits possessing, using, wearing, carrying, or transporting a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime and imposes enhanced felony penalties for that conduct.

Because the statute defines “drug trafficking crime” by reference to drug felonies, cannabis offenses that were reclassified as misdemeanors in 2023 are no longer included—despite the fact that the underlying conduct may still involve trafficking activity and firearms.

What SB 406 Does

SB 406 updates the definition of “drug trafficking crime” in § 5-621 to include specified misdemeanor cannabis trafficking offenses, when committed in connection with a firearm.

Specifically, the bill includes:

- Possession with intent to distribute cannabis; and
- Cultivating or growing cannabis for sale

when those offenses occur during and in relation to the possession or use of a firearm.

The bill does not recriminalize cannabis, does not change the classification of the underlying cannabis offenses, and does not create new firearm penalties. It simply ensures that existing firearm enhancements apply consistently when drug trafficking activity—of any kind—is conducted with a firearm.

Public Safety Rationale

The sale of drugs while armed presents an inherent risk of violence. That risk does not disappear because the substance involved is cannabis rather than another controlled dangerous substance.

SB 406 reflects the principle that drug trafficking with a firearm is dangerous conduct, regardless of the drug involved, and that Maryland law should treat it consistently.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal and policy note reflects only a minimal impact associated with the expanded application of existing penalties. No new programs are created, and no new categories of offenses are added.

Closing

SB 406 is a technical, targeted correction to Maryland law. It closes a loophole created by prior statutory changes and restores consistent treatment of firearm-related drug trafficking offenses, without altering Maryland's broader cannabis policy.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 406.

SB 406 - favorable - drug trafficking.pdf

Uploaded by: Kirsten Brown

Position: FAV

Ivan Bates
President



Kirsten N. Brown
Executive Director

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DATE: February 9, 2026
BILL NUMBER: SB 406
POSITION: Favorable

The Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (MSAA) supports Senate Bill 406 and urges this Committee to issue a favorable report.

MD. CODE ANN., CRIM. LAW ("CL") § 5-621 criminalizes the use of a firearm in a drug trafficking crime. The policy reasons for criminalizing this behavior in addition to the drug trafficking crime itself are sound and well-grounded: the presence of a firearm in a drug deal dramatically escalates both the probability of violence and the lethality of violence should it occur. This conduct is particularly harmful to communities – a not insignificant percentage of gun violence is at least tangentially related to drugs, and it's tearing Maryland's most vulnerable neighborhoods apart.¹

After the possession and recreational use of cannabis in certain amounts became lawful under Maryland law, cannabis offenses that used to be felonies became misdemeanors. While this change makes sense, one unintended consequence was to render individuals who engage in drug trafficking offenses involving cannabis while using guns ineligible for prosecution under CL § 5-621. This means that an individual illegally distributing cocaine while using a gun is subject to this offense, but an individual illegally distributing cannabis while using a gun is not, despite the threat posed by the firearm being exactly the same. SB 406 remedies this issue, restoring the ability to prosecute those that would engage in a drug trafficking crime involving cannabis while using a firearm, without increasing the penalties for the cannabis-related drug trafficking crime at all. SB 406 is a narrowly targeted bill that closes a loophole that currently allows some drug dealers to escape criminal liability for using a firearm, and restores an important tool to help Maryland's prosecutors build safer communities.

¹ See, e.g., Nicole J. Johnson & Caterina G. Roman, *Community correlates of change: A mixed-effects assessment of shooting dynamics during COVID-19*, PLOS ONE 17(2): e0263777 (2022), available at <https://scholarshare.temple.edu/items/c9b87980-3097-4439-88fc-d3eb81cae52b>

Letter in Support SB 406.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Wilt

Position: FAV



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

Continuing the Missions of the Stephanie Roper Committee and Foundation, Inc.

☎ 877-VICTIM-1 (877-842-8461) ✉ mail@mdcrimevictims.org 🌐 mdcrimevictims.org

WRITTEN TESTIMONY SB 406

On behalf of the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. (MCVRC), I respectfully submit this letter in strong support of Senate Bill 406. MCVRC provides legal services for crime victims throughout Maryland and is the largest nonprofit of its kind in the country. An alarming share of our clients are impacted by gun-related offenses—drug related gun offenses, armed robberies, domestic violence incidents, first degree assaults and murders and we write on their behalf.

Senate Bill 406 should receive support from both sides of the political aisle. It will allow for a more serious penalties if a defendant possesses or uses a firearm while engaging in cannabis distribution. The Bill is focused on conduct that clearly threatens public safety and does not touch on the politically charged issue of gun ownership.

Each year, gun-related tragedies dominate the news, prompting elected officials to renew calls for stronger gun control laws. Maryland should take this decisive action to strengthen its approach to sentencing these gun-related offenses. Senate Bill 406 would allow the courts to sentence criminals more seriously if they have guns while engaging in the Possession with Intent to Distribute Cannabis and the Cultivation/Manufacture of Cannabis. Mixing of any drug and firearms is a dangerous combination. If Maryland is serious about tough gun laws, Maryland needs to incarcerate those who use guns while committing other crimes. SB 406 closes a gap that needs to be closed after the change in the Cannabis statutes to misdemeanors.

Our advocates regularly hear from survivors who feel that current penalties do not reflect the gravity of the harm and ongoing fear they experience. Enhancing sentences for these gun-related offenses will be progress. Coupled with other investments in prevention and robust support services for victims, Maryland can work towards restoring confidence in the justice system and improve community safety.

To protect our communities, gun crimes need appropriately tough sentences that reflect the seriousness of the offense. SB 406 is an important step forward. Please prioritize the safety and dignity of our communities and support SB 406.

Sincerely,

Laura Corbett Wilt 2/9/2026

Senior Attorney, Baltimore City Office
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Letter Of Support SB406 (2026).pdf

Uploaded by: Matias Cacheiro

Position: FAV



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

SB 406 Support

February 11, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Office Building – 2 East Miller
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of SB 406 – Criminal Law - Drug Trafficking Crime - Definition

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express strong support for SB 406 on behalf of the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City. This bill addresses a critical gap in our law enforcement and criminal justice process. At its heart, it is a gun bill. This bill intends to ensure that the gravest perpetrators of violence in our communities face accountability.

By changing the definition of "Drug Trafficking Crime" to include misdemeanor charges or a conspiracy to commit a misdemeanor in violation of § 5-602(B)(1) and § 5-603(B), we are ensuring that anyone distributing drugs with a firearm is held accountable. Legislation that has decriminalized cannabis related crimes over the years has been essential to address systemic and structurally racist policies in Baltimore City, however, demoting criminal cannabis charges to misdemeanors has left a gap in combating drug traffickers, and has inhibited the ability of law enforcement and prosecutors to hold accountable individuals who hold firearms while distributing cannabis.

Under current legislation, an individual can drive around your neighborhood with vast quantities of cannabis and a firearm and only be charged with two misdemeanor crimes. If that same individual were holding a small bottle of fentanyl pills and a firearm, that individual would be charged with a drug trafficking crime and face a minimum of 5 years, up to 20 years. The danger we are trying to address with this legislation is the firearm. Holding criminal dealers accountable and removing dangerous weapons from our streets is an essential step in keeping Marylanders safe.

Despite the changes in cannabis legislation, an underground economy for cannabis still exists, and our prosecutors still see cannabis as a key factor in a lot of homicide cases. This is partially



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because there is not an appropriate level of accountability when dealers carry firearms. Help us take more guns off the street by passing this legislation.

In addition, you will find below a real-life case example from Baltimore City demonstrating the extent of this issue.

I urge you to give a favorable report on SB 406. Thank you for your time.

Re: Additional Case Example from Baltimore City



On October 28th, 2022, Detectives with the Baltimore Police Department executed a search and seizure warrant. Upon entering the residence officers located and identified three individuals. Defendant 1 was located in the living room along with a juvenile male. Juvenile Male was located walking down the steps from the second floor. All individuals were placed in the living room and advised of their rights before Detectives asked whether there were any firearms or



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CDS in the house. The Juvenile Male informed officers that he had eight or nine registered guns in his room along with marijuana.

Officers searched the Juvenile Male's room and recovered the following:

- Glock 19 handgun in a dresser drawer
- Smith and Wesson handgun in same dresser drawer
- Springfield XDS handgun under the bed
- Canik TP9 handgun in the closet
- Springfield Saint Victor rifle
- Draco rifle serial
- Garaysar semi-automatic shotgun
- Numerous magazines that fit with the recovered firearms
- 125 rounds of various ammunition
- A vacuum sealed bag containing approximately 1.4 pounds of suspected marijuana, in dresser drawer
- \$155 in cash, in the dresser

During the search of the rest of the house, Detectives recovered two large suitcases in the basement containing a total of 30 pounds of suspected marijuana. Defendant 1 informed officers that the marijuana found in the basement belonged to him.

The suspected Marijuana was submitted to the Maryland State Police lab, where it is undergoing certified testing. The quantity of marijuana, along with observations made during the investigation, indicate that Defendant one and Juvenile Male intended to sell the drugs and they were not for mere personal use. The proximity of the firearms to the suspected marijuana indicates their intended use in the furtherance and protection of the drug trafficking crime. All events occurred in Baltimore City, State of Maryland.

Defendant 1 was charged and convicted with CDS Possession. He was given 6 months (time served) and 18 months of probation.

If this bill were law, this individual would have been charged with a drug trafficking crime as would be defined by Article – Criminal Law 14 Section 5–621(a)(2).

Sincerely,
Matias Cacheiro
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SB 406_UNFAV_ACLU-MD.pdf

Uploaded by: Dara Johnson

Position: UNF



Testimony for the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 11, 2026

SB 406 – Criminal Law – Drug Trafficking Crime – Definition

UNFAVORABLE

DARA JOHNSON
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The ACLU of Maryland and the University of Baltimore Center for Criminal Justice Reform urge an unfavorable report on SB 406, which alters the definition of a “drug trafficking crime” to require the lengthy incarceration of a person convicted of what could amount to the mere presumption of engaging or conspiring in unlawful cannabis operations while generally possessing or using a firearm, regardless of any legal right to have the firearm, and despite the broad legalization of cannabis.¹

While cannabis-based imprisonment has been increasingly disfavored alongside the growing legitimacy of the legal cannabis industry, SB 406 seeks to reverse this progress by warehousing people for conduct that may be otherwise lawful for those with access to the proper paperwork. This needless incarceration is unjustly and especially levied against Black and Brown entrepreneurs, who have been historically shut out of legal cannabis commerce² and thus at greater risk of the harsh punishment imposed by SB 406 for the same conduct that may be lawful for those who can afford to operate a legal cannabis business.³ Such stark inequity

¹ Maryland legalized adult-use cannabis through the Cannabis Reform Act of 2022 (HB 837), following voter approval of Question 4 in the November 2022 general election.

² Data released by the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission in the years leading up to the Cannabis Reform Act indicated that only 10 percent of investors in Maryland’s cannabis industry were people of color. See Meghan Thompson, *Data reveal lack of minority investors in Maryland cannabis industry*, Baltimore Fishbowl (May 26, 2020), <https://baltimorefishbowl.com/stories/data-reveal-lack-of-minority-investors-in-maryland-cannabis-industry/>. More recent reports by the Maryland Cannabis Administration thankfully offer hope with increasing rates of minority participation in opportunities for legal marijuana business operations. See Maryland Cannabis Administration, *2023 Annual Report – Women and Minority Participation in the Cannabis Industry* (2023), https://cannabis.maryland.gov/documents/2024_pdf_files/legislative%20reports/2023%20women_and_minority_36-801.pdf. However, as this progress continues to overcome decades of racial disparities in cannabis enforcement, it must not be set back by the onerous provisions of HB 171.

³ See generally, Maryland Cannabis Administration, *Laws, Regulations and Reports*, <https://cannabis.maryland.gov/pages/law.aspx>.

would reverse recent advancements by the General Assembly toward more fair and effective drug policies, and must be wholly rejected to continue protecting Marylanders from such excessive criminalization, and in light of the well-documented ongoing racial disparities in enforcement.

Increased incarceration presents as the sole goal of SB 406, which targets people with firearms suspected of unlawful cannabis distribution, cultivation, or related conspiracy by imposing a sentence of at least five years for just the first violation. This mandatory minimum doubles to 10 years for each subsequent violation. While the high cost of starting and running a legal cannabis business can derail efforts to obtain the government's stamp of approval, such lack of procedural compliance does not amount to a crime warranting an extensive prison sentence. Although SB 406 only elevates this conduct to a felony requiring mandatory imprisonment when accompanied by the broadly-defined possession, use, wear, carry, or transport of a firearm, this fails to account for (1) any legal right to have the firearm and (2) the reality that many entrepreneurs keep a firearm as a simple safety precaution when operating a cash business like cannabis production, food sales, cleaning services, etc.

As a lack of malintent is easily conceivable among many who may be subject to SB 406's draconian punishments, the ultimate outcome would be needless suffering in the same Black and Brown communities targeted by the General Assembly's efforts to remedy the disproportionate impact of the failed War on Drugs when passing legislation to broadly legalize cannabis under the Cannabis Reform Act of 2022. Following the enactment of its provisions expanding the expungement of cannabis-related criminal records and establishing a fund to re-direct tax revenues to the communities devastated by failed cannabis prohibition, the General Assembly continued to advance needed reforms by passing legislation in 2023 to bar police from initiating a stop or search solely based on the alleged smell of cannabis.⁴

Even before these reforms, the Legislature engaged in work to begin alleviating unjust criminalization surrounding cannabis, including provisions enacted in 2018 under SB 101. Per the enacted amendments to this bill, possession with intent to distribute cannabis (PWID) under Md. Code Ann., Crim. Law § 5-602(2) was specifically excluded as a crime subject to the provision defining the "use of a firearm in the commission of a felony...or other crime violence" as a "crime of violence" under § 14-101(a)(14). This ultimately barred the mandatory minimum provisions for crimes of violence under § 14-101(d) from applying to the use of a firearm in concert with PWID (as specifically defined under § 5-602(2)).

⁴ *Criminal Law and Procedure — Cannabis — Fines for Smoking in Public, Stops, and Searches*, H.B. 1071/S.B. 51, 2023 Gen. Assemb., Reg. Sess. (Md. 2023), ch. 802 (codified at Md. Code Ann., Crim. Law & Crim. Proc.).

However, SB 406 seeks to work around this intentional exclusion by amending the separate definition of a “drug trafficking crime” under § 5-621(a)(2) to include:

- (1) conduct related to the cultivation and manufacturing of cannabis and cannabis products with intent to produce, sell, or dispense it (as defined under § 5-603(b)), and
- (2) the general possession of cannabis in a “sufficient quantity reasonably to indicate under all circumstances an intent to distribute or dispense cannabis” as provided under § 5-602(b)(1) and not excepted by other provisions under Title 5 of Maryland’s criminal law code.

The irony of the proponents’ claim that this legislation is designed to “fix a loophole” related to cannabis is that it actually seeks to create a workaround of changes that were created intentionally as part of efforts to mitigate the excessive harms of the drug war. This workaround subjects these specific categories of presumed cannabis operation to the particular mandatory minimum requirements offered under § 5–621(c) when it occurs during or in relation to the firearm conduct specifically defined under § 5–621(b).⁵ This is subtle distinction between the punishment applicable to this particular conduct under SB 406, and the PWID protections enacted under SB 101, covertly undermines the General Assembly’s clear intent to progress toward less punishment for this type of conduct.

In reversing the Legislature’s positive course toward less punitive cannabis regulation, SB 406 would undermine the progress these recent reforms have achieved in the Black and Brown communities that are often disproportionately subject to undue criminal punishment similar that proposed by this bill.⁶ The cost of allowing SB 406 to proceed amounts to no less than the lives of the many Black and Brown Marylanders that have historically kept out of the state’s legal cannabis industry, as it perversely strips the freedom of people engaged in conduct that may be otherwise sanctioned for those who simply have more resources. Such intolerable inequity effectively turns back the clock and must be rejected to maintain Maryland’s advancement toward fair drug policies that achieve genuine public safety for all.

For the foregoing reasons, the ACLU of Maryland and [the University of Baltimore Center for Criminal Justice Reform](#) urge an unfavorable report on SB 406.

⁵ This pertains to the use, wear, carry, or transport of a firearm, as well as the possession of a firearm under “sufficient circumstances to constitute a nexus to the drug trafficking crime.”

⁶ See, e.g., *Racial Equity Impact Note for S.B. 833, Maryland General Assembly Department of Legislative Services 1–14* (2022), <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs/BudgetFiscal/2022RS-SB0833-REIN.pdf>

SB 406 OPD UNF Drug Trafficking .docx (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Hilliard

Position: UNF



NATASHA DARTIGUE
PUBLIC DEFENDER

KEITH LOTRIDGE
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

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CHIEF OF STAFF

ELIZABETH HILLIARD
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

BILL: SB 406 - Criminal Law - Drug Trafficking Crime - Definition

FROM: Maryland Office of the Public Defender

POSITION: Unfavorable

DATE: February 11, 2026

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 406.

Senate Bill 406 expands the definition of a “drug trafficking crime” to include **misdemeanor** cannabis violations. Under current law, neither misdemeanor nor conspiracies to dispense marijuana are eligible for sentencing enhancements as “drug trafficking” crimes. This bill specifically seeks to include the misdemeanor §5-602(B)(1) or the conspiracy to commit §5-602(B)(1), possession with intent to distribute, and the misdemeanor §5-602(B)(3) cultivating or growing cannabis, as predicate offenses for “drug trafficking crime.” During and in relation to a drug trafficking crime, a person may not (1) possess a firearm under sufficient circumstances to constitute a nexus to the drug trafficking crime or (2) use, wear, carry, or transport a firearm. Violators are guilty of a felony and, in addition to the sentence provided for the drug trafficking crime, are subject to:

- for a first violation, imprisonment for up to 20 years with a mandatory minimum, nonsuspendable sentence of 5 years; and
- for each subsequent violation, imprisonment for up to 20 years with a mandatory minimum, nonsuspendable sentence of 10 years.

Except for an incarcerated individual at the Patuxent Institution, the entire sentence is nonparolable. A sentence imposed for a subsequent violation of § 5-621 must be consecutive to and not concurrent with any other sentence imposed by virtue of the commission of the drug trafficking crime.

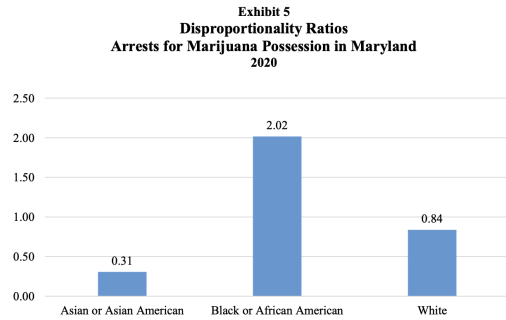
This bill would be a step backward for Maryland. Maryland voters overwhelmingly chose to legalize recreational marijuana and it was a great first step towards ending the five-decades-long “war on drugs.” We were so excited to see Maryland move away from the criminalization of cannabis, in part because we know substance use is a health concern and should be treated as such and in part because we know that the criminalization of cannabis has *always* disproportionately impacted Black and Brown Marylanders. From 2015 to 2017, 96% of arrestees for marijuana in Baltimore were Black. That is an overwhelmingly large number when considering that the city's population is 62% Black. Source: [Baltimore Banner Article](#).

[In 2020, according to the REIN from HB0001 \(2022\)](#), the disproportionality ratio of arrests for marijuana possession for African Americans, or people identified as Black, in Maryland is 2.02. This means

that people identified as Black, are twice as likely to be arrested for marijuana possession as compared to their proportion of the State’s population. Whites and other non-Black racial groups have disproportionality ratios of less than 1.00, with Whites at 0.84 and Asians or Asian Americans at 0.31. Thus, individuals in these groups are less likely to be arrested for marijuana possession as compared to their overall proportion of the State population.

The accumulation of prior convictions disproportionately impacts communities of color. These

convictions generally drive further and deeper involvement in the criminal legal system. We have made progress and urge the General Assembly not to undo that progress.



Source: Department of Legislative Services

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Public Defender urges an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 406.

**Submitted by: Maryland Office of the Public Defender,
Government Relations Division**

SB0406-2026_MDNORMAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Miguel Jones

Position: UNF



Contact:
Maryland NORML
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Submitted to:
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Annapolis, MD – February 9, 2026

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

OPPOSE SB0406
(Criminal Law – Drug Trafficking Crime – Definition)

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.

We are in strong opposition to Senate Bill 406. The bill would significantly expand the scope of Maryland’s firearm–drug enhancement statute in a manner that is disproportionate, inconsistent with the State’s cannabis reform framework, and likely to produce unjust outcomes.

SB 406 redefines “drug trafficking crime” to include certain misdemeanor cannabis offenses, thereby triggering severe firearm-related felony penalties—including mandatory minimum sentences of five to ten years—based on conduct the General Assembly has expressly classified as non-felonious. This expansion represents a sharp departure from the principle that sentencing enhancements should be reserved for serious, violent, or large-scale criminal activity.

Maryland has spent the last decade recalibrating its approach to cannabis by reducing penalties, eliminating collateral consequences, and drawing clearer distinctions between low-level conduct and true trafficking. SB 406 undermines that progress by reintroducing extreme punishment through a secondary pathway, even when no violence is alleged or proven.

The bill also raises serious proportionality and fairness concerns. By attaching lengthy mandatory sentences to misdemeanor cannabis activity whenever a firearm is present—regardless of use or intent—it risks sweeping in lawful gun owners and imposing penalties far in excess of culpability. Such outcomes erode public confidence in the justice system and conflict with evidence-based criminal justice reform.

For these reasons and more, we urge an UNFAVORABLE report on SB0406.

M. Luke Jones, Maryland NORML

SB406_Carr_unf.pdf

Uploaded by: Warren (Rusty) Carr

Position: UNF

SB406 Unfavorable
Warren (Rusty) Carr
4391 Moletton Drive
Mount Airy, MD 21771

The people of Maryland voted to end the war on drugs for Cannabis when we voted Yes on Question 4. Cannabis is less dangerous than alcohol or tobacco, neither of which are treated as drug trafficking for unlicensed sales. Adding Cannabis back into drug war law designed for deadly narcotics is attempting to restart the war on drugs against Cannabis. The people have said "No more!" Prohibition is fundamentally flawed public policy. Prohibition always costs the community more and delivers less benefits. Cannabis is now commerce not drug distribution. Unlicensed sales of Cannabis still vastly outnumber licensed sales. This bill will not change that. The most effective way to reduce unlicensed Cannabis sales is to lower market prices. The most effective way to decouple violence from Cannabis commerce is through decriminalization, not recriminization.

Please vote unfavorable on SB406 "Criminal Law - Drug Trafficking Crime – Definition".

Thank you,
Rusty Carr