



February 15, 2017

The Honorable Joseph F. Vallario, Jr.
Judiciary Committee
Room 101, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 1185 - Criminal Law - Cannabis – Legalization – Oppose

Dear Delegate Vallario:

House Bill 1185 would decriminalize cannabis in the State of Maryland.

While we applaud any effort to protect employers and their customers from risks involved with employees' use of mind-altering substances, the provisions in this bill are inadequate.

This bill does not require employers to accommodate the use of cannabis during work hours, or being under the influence during work hours or in a place of employment. However, it does not adequately detail such protections. There is no standard measurement of intoxication for cannabis (as there is with blood alcohol limits). Cannabis stays in one's system far longer than alcohol, and will be detected in any standard drug screen used by many employers either for pre-employment, post-accident or for reasonable suspicion testing. Without some acceptable measure, employers will be at risk when disciplining employees found to have used cannabis. Furthermore, cannabis is still an illegal substance under federal law. Putting employers in the untenable position of complying with state law, but violating federal law cannot be considered a reasonable course of action. In addition, removing records of previous violations of state law deprives employers of valid and necessary information in evaluating whether to hire an applicant. We also question whether such a move would be contradictory to federal law, and to drug-free workplace regulations that must be followed by federal contractors and others.

We urge you to spend more time in considering the implications should this bill become law.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 560 members, opposes this bill and therefore requests that you give it an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mike McMullin'.

Mike McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Delegate Susan W. Krebs
Senator Justin Ready

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