

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 548

(Delegate Guzzone, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

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Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances

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This bill establishes the Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances. The Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) must provide staff for the task force, and the Governor must designate the chair of the task force. Members of the task force may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by July 31, 2025. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024, and terminates December 31, 2026.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** MCA can provide staff support to the task force using existing budgeted resources. Any expense reimbursements for members of the task force are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The task force must generally (1) study the use of natural psychedelic substances (including naturally derived psilocybin, psilocin, dimethyltryptamine, mescaline, and any other substance the task force determines to be a natural psychedelic substance, but not including peyote), as specified; (2) make recommendations regarding any changes to State law, policy, and practices needed to create a Maryland Natural Psychedelic Substance Access Program, as specified; and (3) make recommendations to

transition from criminalizing conduct involving natural psychedelic substances, as specified. The task force may consult with experts and stakeholders in conducting its duties.

**Current Law:** Controlled dangerous substances (CDS) are listed on one of five schedules (Schedules I through V) set forth in statute depending on their potential for abuse and acceptance for medical use. Under the federal Controlled Substances Act, for a drug or substance to be classified as Schedule I, the following findings must be made: (1) the substance has a high potential for abuse; (2) the drug or other substance has no currently accepted medical use in the United States; and (3) there is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision.

The following substances are listed as Schedule I CDS: psilocybin and psilocin (better known as “magic mushrooms”); dimethyltryptamine (better known as DMT); and mescaline (a constituent of “peyote” cacti).

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 1009 (Senator Feldman) - Finance.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Cannabis Administration; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Veterans Affairs; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 19, 2024  
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