



SENATE BILL 604: PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS-MEDICAL CANNABIS-POLICY FOR ADMINISTRATION DURING SCHOOL HOURS AND EVENTS

On behalf of the Maryland Medical Dispensary Association
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Support
February 18, 2020

The Maryland Medical Dispensary Association (MDMDA) was established in May, 2017 in order to promote the common interests and goals of the Medical Cannabis Dispensaries in Maryland. MDMDA advocates for laws, regulations and public policies that foster a health, professional and secure medical cannabis industry in the State. MDMDA works on the State and local level to advance the interest of licensed dispensaries as well as to provide a forum for the exchange of information in the Medical Cannabis Industry.

SB 604 would require the Maryland State Department of Education, together with the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission, to develop guidelines for schools on the administration of medical cannabis during school hours, school-sponsored after-school activities and on a school bus to students who are qualifying patients. Guidelines should be shared with nonpublic schools.

The MDMDA strongly supports the impetus of this bill as we believe all qualifying patients, regardless of age, should be able to access their medication whenever and wherever they need it. Dispensary staff across the state work closely with families who would greatly benefit from this important legislation.

It is our understanding that amendments may be offered on this bill. We leave it to stakeholders to figure out how best to implement this measure, but would urge the Committee, regardless of how it is implemented, to please pass SB 604. School-age, qualifying patients should be able to easily access their medication during school hours and at school activities.