



POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Bill: SB 0190 Criminal Law – Firearms-Right to Purchase, possess, and Carry- Use of Medical Cannabis

Position: Favorable

Date: January 20, 2021

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender respectfully requests that the Committee issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 190.

Senate Bill 190 would provide medical marijuana patients with the same rights as their fellow Maryland residents. This bill would ensure that individuals do not lose their right to purchase, possess, or carry a firearm, and are thus not subject to unnecessary and potential criminalization for merely registering as a legal medical marijuana patient. While Maryland has strong laws for possessing firearms, those laws aren't strengthened by preventing medical marijuana patients from lawfully possessing firearms. Rather this law is in line with additional laws and legislative efforts collectively aimed at decriminalizing and preventing the criminalization of individuals who may possess and use marijuana.

For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 190.