



TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF THE MARYLAND MEDICAL DISPENSARY
ASSOCIATION and THE MARYLAND WHOLESALE MEDICAL CANNABIS TRADE
ASSOCIATION

House Bill 1078—Cannabis-Regulation-Revisions

SUPPORT

House Health and Government

Operations Committee

March 9, 2022

The Maryland Medical Dispensary Association (MDMDA) and the Maryland Wholesale Medical Cannabis Trade Association (CANMD) appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 1078—Cannabis—Regulation—Revisions, and we thank Delegate Pena-Melnyk for addressing this important issue.

House Bill 1078 essentially seeks to redefine ‘medical cannabis’ so as to include any plant or part of a plant that contains a concentration of .3% or greater of **delta-8** or delta-9-THC concentration on a dry weight basis. By including delta-8 in this definition, it would be tested and regulated in the same way as all other medical cannabis products. Like Maryland, states across the country are taking up this issue. In fact, twenty states have already regulated, restricted or banned delta-8.

House Bill 1078 is necessary because companies across the county are exploiting a loophole in the federal 2018 Farm Bill. The delta-8 (and now delta-9) products that would be regulated by House Bill 1078 contain THC derived from hemp plants. The federal loophole has been interpreted by purveyors of these products as allowing them as “hemp-derived products.” To be clear – the delta-8 and delta-9 products at issue contain the same THC as products regulated as medical cannabis. They are psychoactive, intoxicating products that are being sold outside of any testing or regulatory structure. This was never the intent of the national and State efforts to encourage the production of hemp.

Because delta-8 has more similarities to THC (delta-9) than CBD, we believe it should be regulated as such. For this reason, we support House Bill 1078 and urge a favorable vote.