

I am in support of HB1054 - Use of Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance - De Minimis Quantity - Delegate Moon - Judiciary Committee

The prosecution and creation of a record for citizens in possession of small quantities of drugs is tragic. The creation of a record and any convictions creates irreparable harm to citizens who - like recreational users of cigarettes and alcohol - are merely doing that, using a substance recreationally.

The possession of small quantities of drugs, along with the absence of any criminal activity should not be treated as harshly as we currently do. The creation of a record can lead to being denied affordable housing, jobs, government assistance, etc. It often leaves those with a record with much fewer choices to legally make a living.

Additionally, there is more than ample data showing that people of color are treated more harshly, both in arrests , convictions, and sentencing.

This bill, if passed, would make possession of small quantities of drugs (for example - 10 grams of marijuana, or 2 grams of cocaine) a civil offense vs a misdemeanor. There would be a fine, which would increase with the number of violations. Most importantly, there is also a provision to send repeat offenders to a drug education program.

This is an important step forward in treating recreational substance abuse properly and attempting to treat it, as opposed to trying to lock more and more people up.

We have to stop ruining lives over this. Please vote FAVORABLE in committee