

## **UNFAVORABLE on HB927**

Criminal Law - Use or Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance –  
De Minimis Quantity

Sponsored by Delegates Ruth and Moon

Maryland, as is the rest of the country, is still in the grips of a drug abuse epidemic where drug overdose deaths continue to rise. Drug abuse continues to rise after COVID-19.

It is quite amazing that every attempt by the state only seems to worsen drug abuse in Maryland and America. Addiction in Maryland and America is leading to overdoses and suicide. Drug abuse does not help suicide deaths. Drug addiction does lead to overdose deaths. Drug addiction does lead to the moral death of a nation, of the drug-users' community and the eventual death of the abusers' life hopes and physical life.

Mandating drug court is a ruse in this bill. There is no benefit to addicts who are merely abusing the judicial system as they abuse their drugs, their families and their relationships.

By definition, an addict lacks self-discipline, self-direction and moral high-ground to take responsibility for life's demands. They can neither help themselves to a higher purpose nor represent what a higher purpose is for others. They are – de facto – a danger around children, particularly their own.

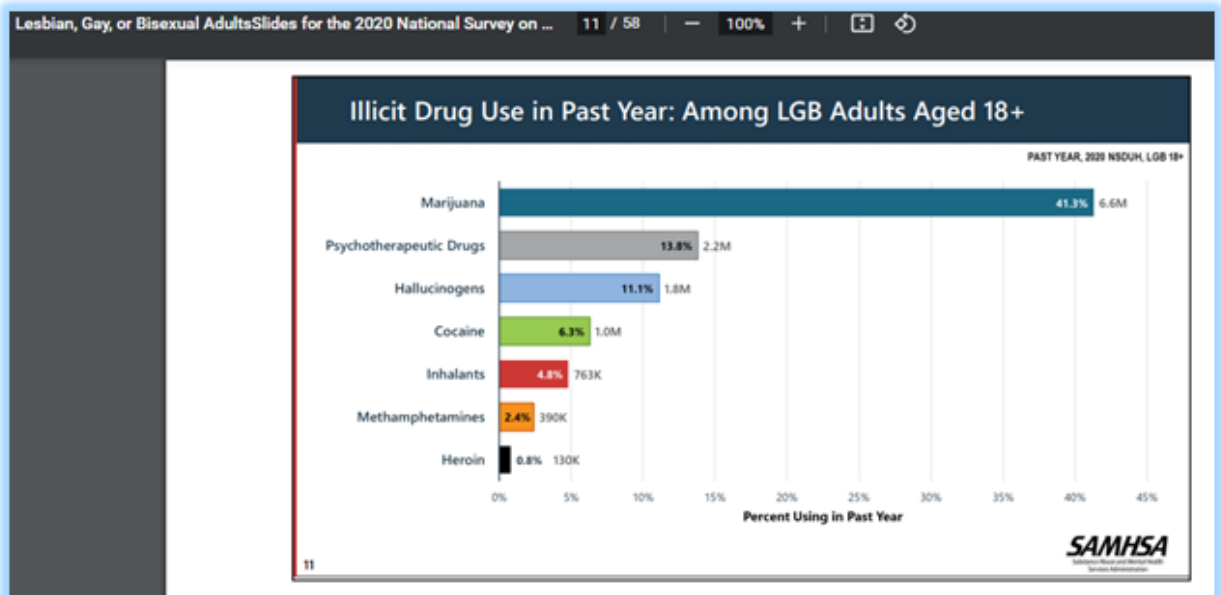
Prior testimony in House Judiciary painted a picture of a human walking-illicit-drug-store. the co-sponsor, drug pusher del. David Moon, has indicated that the bill's intention is for someone to evade prosecution regardless how many "de minimus" controlled dangerous substances they cart about. De minimus is in quotes, because these are NOT de minimus amounts. . The bill aims to make an amount of drugs that would kill any child a non-prosecutable offense.

Lawmakers have only to make sure that children, and the community and our schools are safe. Safe for normal folks; not safe for drug dealers and miscreants plying children with drugs.

IN THIS SECTION, “DE MINIMIS QUANTITY OF A CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE” MEANS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN:

- 3 (1) 100 MILLIGRAMS OF COCAINE;
- 4 (2) 65 MILLIGRAMS OF COCAINE BASE, COMMONLY KNOWN AS “CRACK”;
- 6 (3) 60 MILLIGRAMS OF HEROIN;
- 7 (4) 200 MILLIGRAMS OR TWO TABLETS OF 3, 4-METHYLENEDIOXYMETHAMPHETAMINE (MDMA);
- 9 (5) TWO USER UNITS OF LYSERGIC ACID DIETHYLAMIDE (LSD);
- 10 (6) TWO USER UNITS OF PSILOCYBIN, COMMONLY KNOWN AS “MUSHROOMS”;
- 12 (7) TWO USER UNITS OF METHADONE;
- 13 (8) 60 MILLIGRAMS OF METHAMPHETAMINE; OR
- 14 (9) TWO TABLETS OF OXYCODONE OR HYDROCODONE.

No parent could look at this list and say that this is okay for a child to carry nor would any good parent want this aberrant walking-illicit-drug-store anywhere near their child.



<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt37929/2020NSDUHLGBSlides072522.pdf>

I have personal suspicions about those plying children; LGBTQ users have a drug abuse rate over twice that of non-LGBTQ people.

These two tables look awfully similar.

### **Addiction Starts with Marijuana and is the Gateway to These Drugs**

I recall who kept bringing this bill in the House – Delegate Morhaim. He would later be censured by the entire House (138 votes). Drugs make people unreasonable. Regarding legalization and liberalization of drug laws, a teenager once addicted to marijuana said this “I was never a religious or spiritual person, but I started realizing people have a soul. And I realized I lost mine to marijuana. This is a REAL thing; people don't talk about it oftentimes. This is silently affected a lot of youth...this legislation is going to create a lot more cases like mine....” Jordan Davidson, former marijuana addict Testimony in House Judiciary.

This bill wants these same children visiting the emergency rooms from marijuana, going into REHAB for marijuana, selling themselves for dope in prostitution to ALSO be able to obtain & escape undeterred by the law when the substances are drugs known to routinely be contaminated with dangerous filler/cut. Escape undeterred while holding up to 40 tabs of LSD. As little as 10 can lead to permanent brain damage and re-wiring. As little as 4 tabs has been known to cause people to jump off buildings to their death. Legalization of a drug which intoxicates and alters perception of mental and physical faculties works to destroy society. It lessens the heights to which mankind can achieve. This teenager's testimony mirrored that of others giving testimony in House Judiciary in 2021.

In 2021, during testimony about marijuana, emergency room doctors, neuroscientists, parents of child-addicts and others gave testimony of suicide attempts, addiction, prostitution to be around people who smoke drugs, as well as car accidents and deaths. A Colorado mom discussed leaving her area because the smoke & smell was “everywhere we go”. She complained about predatory profiting on marijuana edibles in used by 8th graders. About dabs causing emergency room visits and suicide attempts. About how children she saw graduating from marijuana as a gateway drug to other drugs such as “meth”. Here's that video.

<https://mgahouse.maryland.gov/mga/play/4b22e772-da01-49dc-916f-b14044acab97?catalog/03e481c7-8a42-4438-a7da-93ff74bdaa4c&playfrom=12800000>

I provide it to you because, for some strange reason, delegates, the little video camera icon that should be there for this lengthy bill hearing hasn't made it to the MGA website after 2 years. So odd.

### **So....WHY?!? Arrests?**

Legalization opens a Pandora's Box which will cost humans much in pain and death. Other locations such as Canada and Colorado are amid this pain and are backtracking their legalization laws. Legalization is said to eliminate all types of issues from backpain to black market drugs to taxes to reducing arrests. Each of these arguments have been up-ended by the facts after legalization/liberalization of drug laws. In California and Oregon, there are rampant illicit markets. It's gotten so bad the Governor of Oregon has declared state of emergency. For those who don't study overall societal effects of declining morality, sin taxes never pay off; we found that with the gambling taxes which were supposed to pay off school funding. The Speaker and others are using the words Black Agenda in connection with – what – engineering & jobless rates? No, NOT engineering and reducing jobless rates. The black agenda is placating DRUG USE and making excuses for VIOLENT CRIME. Crime always accompanies drug use.

Year after year because people get arrested – and honestly folks, if you get arrested for smoking dope in Baltimore you don't have 2 brain cells to rub together – teens smoke dope in the open outside my downtown offices – who are not productive citizens striving to produce. They're striving to mistreat their personal issues with constant intoxication. You're not thinking of children when you bring these bills. Kids will taunt others with a “legal” substance – I place in quotes because it is Federally declared as an ILLEGAL substance – and children who would otherwise avoid the temptation will give in due to peer pressure.

Substance abuse is associated with a high risk for major mental illness:

Niemi-Pynttari et al., 2013

<https://www.psychiatrist.com/jcp/article/Pages/2013/v74n01/v74n0115.aspx>

Mental illness is associated with a much greater risk for homelessness .

Seattle should be considered a test case for what happens when there is decriminalization of all drug. Baltimore is well on its way to becoming another Seattle

Without a threat of criminal charges, there is little incentive for addicts to change, i.e. to remove themselves from their environment on the streets in order to try recovery programs (as seen in Seattle).

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/no-charges-for-personal-drug-possession-seattles-boldgamble-to-bring-peace-after-the-war-on-drugs/2019/06/11/69a7bb46-7285-11e9-9f06-5fc2ee80027a\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/no-charges-for-personal-drug-possession-seattles-boldgamble-to-bring-peace-after-the-war-on-drugs/2019/06/11/69a7bb46-7285-11e9-9f06-5fc2ee80027a_story.html)

<https://www.northpointwashington.com/blog/is-seattle-dying-from-addiction/>

