

## DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

### LEGALITY

Per the Maryland Cannabis Administration:

- As of July 1, 2023, any product containing more than 0.5 mg THC per serving and 2.5 mg THC per package, except for certain full spectrum tincture products, may only be sold in a licensed cannabis dispensary. This requirement extends to all THC isomers, including delta-8, delta-9, and delta-10. THC is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, the main psychoactive ingredient in the cannabis plant. It's what makes some feel "high" when smoking marijuana and/or eating an edible.
- Effective July 1, 2023, Adults 21 years and older may possess up to 1.5 ounces of cannabis flower, up to 12 grams of concentrated cannabis; or a total amount of cannabis products that does not exceed 750 mg of THC.

<https://mmcc.maryland.gov/Pages/cannabisfaq.aspx#:~:text=Adults%2021%20years%20and%20older,the%20%22personal%20use%20amount.%22>

### BASIS FOR DISCUSSION

Per our charge, the Legislative group was tasked with researching the legal structure surrounding the production, sale, and managing of legal cannabis across the USA and reviewing that vis a vis what has been implemented in Maryland. We used the following document as our starting point for analysis into the effective policy governing cannabis production, use, impact, etc. The white paper from the USC Schaeffer Center describes "why public health goals related to moderating consumption should be further considered and integrated into proposals to legalize cannabis federally. Cannabis legalization policies can minimize threats to public health while achieving social justice, equity and economic goals, but this requires the regulatory environment to prioritize the promotion of moderate, not excessive, use."

[https://healthpolicy.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/USC-Schaeffer-Center-white-paper\\_Federal-Regulation-of-Cannabis-for-Public-Health-in-the-United-States.pdf](https://healthpolicy.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/USC-Schaeffer-Center-white-paper_Federal-Regulation-of-Cannabis-for-Public-Health-in-the-United-States.pdf)

## LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

*Review of current legislation by hosting mini-town halls and focus groups across the county with cannabis store owners, farmers, and senior officials from the HoCo Fire Department, HoCo Police Department, HoCo Health Department and as well as other political and community leaders. This would then be followed by additional sessions involving other county and state leaders to establish a review board with a check and balance system for looking at the effectiveness of the laws established.*

- Discuss implementation of recreational use with those already producing, selling, and/or managing medical cannabis. What has worked and what hasn't?
- Discuss traffic and community safety with fire, police, and health professionals. How can we make sure it's safe for people on the roads and in the communities if people are using cannabis and then operating cars, machinery, or working while under the influence?
- Discuss processes for handling theft. One person stealing and then giving it to a minor is one too many. How can this be handled properly by store owners?
- Discuss how to train staff to observe, report, and deny sales to anyone abusing cannabis...similar to bartenders with alcohol.

HERE ARE SAMPLE QUESTION FOR THESE PUBLIC SESSIONS:

[https://healthpolicy.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/USC-Schaeffer-Center-white-paper\\_Federal-Regulation-of-Cannabis-for-Public-Health-in-the-United-States.pdf](https://healthpolicy.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/USC-Schaeffer-Center-white-paper_Federal-Regulation-of-Cannabis-for-Public-Health-in-the-United-States.pdf)

- As of July 22, 2022, Vermont and Connecticut were the only states that cap potency of THC (based on nanograms) on most types of cannabis products sold. What do you think about establishing a ceiling on nanograms sold? What about defining “driving high” legislation?
- Would Taxes based on potency, rather than price or weight, do a better job of incentivizing moderate THC consumption? How do we make sure there is a proper system in place for establishing protocols?

HERE ARE SOME SAMPLE BENCHMARKS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- *The law enforcement arm of this (enforcement) shall ensure that racial disparities do not exist within the criminal legal system. According to the Legal Action Center, “Even in states that have moved to cannabis legalization, there are increases in the number of arrests of Black and Latino/a individuals. This suggests that continued inconsistencies exist due to policing practices and policies.”*

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- *Ensure all product labeling is in place to inform the public of potential harmful effects. “Clear labeling of cannabis products can also enhance the ability of adults to identify harmful products. Require that items containing cannabis include clear warning labels like gambling, alcohol and cigarettes.”*

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