



Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy - Cannabis

Healthy St. Mary's Chronic Disease Team Meeting

July 23, 2024

Annie Carver - Staff Attorney

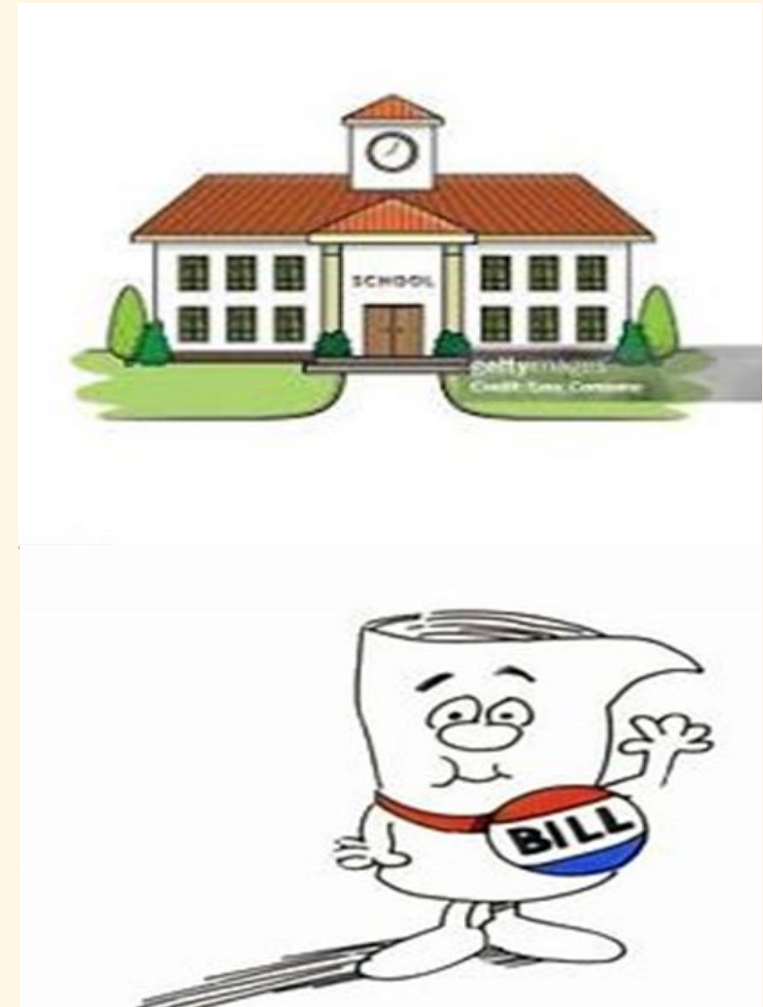
Building on Experience to Address New Challenges

- ❑ The Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy at the University of Maryland School of Law
 - Established in 2001
 - provide legal technical assistance regarding tobacco law
- ❑ New cannabis team added in January 2024
 - Mission to help Maryland's public health community understand and respond to the challenges of cannabis legalization.
 - Local health departments, regulatory agencies, community groups, legislators, residents,
 - Funded by the Cannabis Public Health Fund through MDH
 - Three Public Health Attorneys and a Program Coordinator
 - Same quality services



LRC-Cannabis Services

- Cannabis community needs assessment
- Legal technical assistance
 - Cannot provide legal advice
 - Research and Educate
 - Ex. Does Maryland permit medical cannabis in schools? If so, what are the rules surrounding the administration of the medical cannabis?
- Educational resources
 - Fact sheets and issue briefs
 - Webinars
 - Meetings and presentations
 - Maryland public health cannabis conference in 2025
- Legislative tracking
- Legislative and regulatory advocacy



St. Mary's Community Needs Assessment Results

Very concerned

- Impact on pregnant and breastfeeding persons
- Availability of high potency cannabis and hemp products
- Mental health issues related to cannabis consumption
- Cannabis use disorder
- Product safety measures for legal cannabis products and hemp products
- Dual use of cannabis and other substances

Biggest public health concerns: Youth marketing, access, and use; cannabis use disorder; cannabis use in multiunit housing

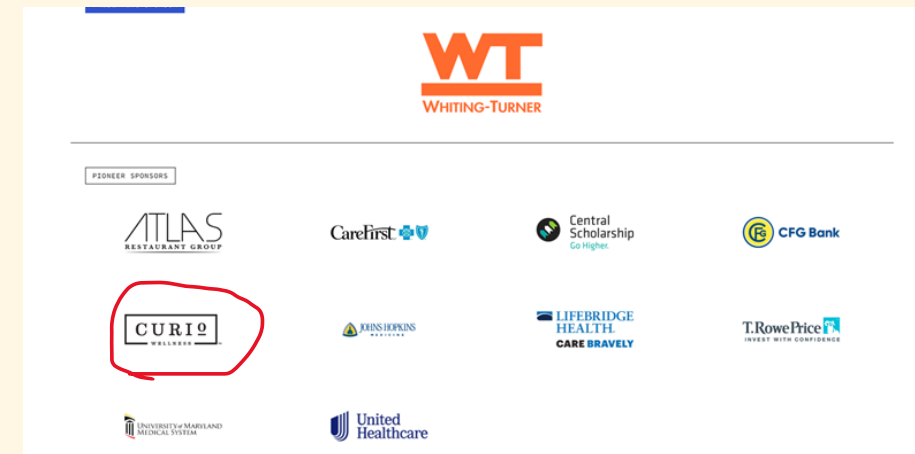
Public health issues: zoning issues relating to growers and manufacturers, and youth use

Currently implementing: increase access to substance use treatment services and seeking funding for cannabis prevention efforts

Greatest challenges: Lack of sufficient funding, lowered risk perception for cannabis, lack of research on risks.

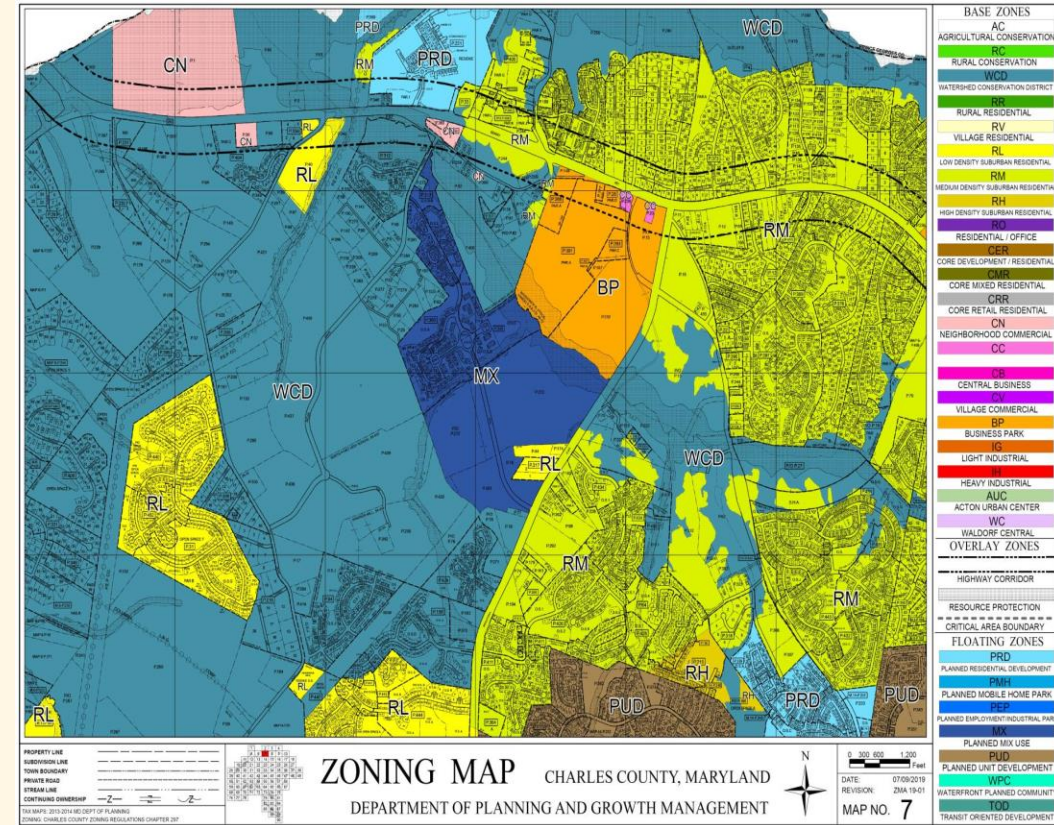
HB 253-Cannabis Reform Act-Alterations (Passed)

- ❑ Clarifies roles of Maryland Cannabis Administration and Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission.
- ❑ A cannabis business cannot sponsor an event unless at least 85% of audience are adults.
- ❑ Creates a new category of cannabis license-nursery license.
- ❑ Restricts the content of signs placed on outside of cannabis business.
 - Can only be used to identify the business to the public.
- ❑ Signed by the Governor on April 25, 2024.
Emergency bill effective upon enactment.



HB805/SB537-Local Zoning Authority and Community Protest (Passed)

- ❑ **State standard:** dispensary cannot be within 500 feet of a school, playground, public park, place of worship,
- ❑ Local government cannot set a zoning requirement more restrictive than this state standard (*e.g.*, 1000 feet) but can reduce exclusionary zone (*e.g.*, 300 feet).
- ❑ Local government can require that dispensaries are located up to
 - One-half mile away from each other &
 - 100 feet away from residential areas.
- ❑ Provides residents and businesses within 1,000 feet of a cannabis business the ability to protest the renewal of the business's license.
- ❑ Signed by the Governor on April 25, 2024. Effective Jun 1, 2024



SB513/HB525-Employment Protections (Failed)

- Prohibited employers from taking adverse employment actions against an individual for their legal cannabis use outside of work hours.
- Did not allow cannabis use at work or cannabis impairment at work.
- Exemptions for employers that would lose a federal grant or contract (Drug Free Workplace Act).
- Did not preempt federal laws related to workplace drug testing.
- Did not receive a committee vote.



SB 399-Outdoor Cannabis Advertising (Failed)

- Current law prohibits outdoor advertising other than sign placed on the outside of a cannabis business.
- SB 399 would have removed this restriction.
- Allowed outdoor advertising if it was 500 feet away from substance use treatment facilities, schools, childcare facilities, playgrounds, libraries, and public parks.
- Received an unfavorable vote in Senate Finance Committee



MCA Proposed Regulations

- ❑ On May 3, 2024, the MCA proposed permanent regulations, which were published for public review and comment
- ❑ The LRC-C reviewed the proposed regulations and submitted public comments regarding some public health concerns, including:
 - The definition of personal use amount
 - The Compassionate Use Fund
 - Medical customer accommodations
 - Clinical director requirements
 - Product testing
 - High potency edibles
 - Vape products
 - Pregnancy and breastfeeding product warnings
 - Adult-use concentrates

Looking Forward

- Cannabis on-site consumption lounges
- Rescheduling of cannabis from schedule I to schedule III
- Presentations and trainings on various public health and cannabis legalization topics
- 2025 legislative session

Resources

- Maryland residents can submit TA requests regarding smoking in multi-unit dwellings here: <https://mdsmokefreeapartments.org/>
- LRC-Cannabis listserv for announcements regarding trainings, webinars, and factsheets
- Website coming soon!!

Questions?

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