



Cannabis and Gambling Legislative Update

Healthy St. Mary's Behavioral Health Action Team Meeting
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[HB 307/SB 217](#): Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund - Alterations

- Requires counties to develop a plan for the distribution of Community Reinvestment and Repair Funds (CRRF) that:
 - Identifies the geographic areas that were most impacted by the disproportionate enforcement of cannabis laws,
 - Describes how the funds will be used in compliance with the accepted uses for the fund,
 - Is made publicly available, and
 - Is developed in consultation with the Office of Social Equity.
- Restricts county expenditure of these funds to low-income communities disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs.
- As of 3/18, neither the Senate or House version of this bill has received a committee vote.

SB 594: Cannabis – Advertising - Alterations

- SB 594 defines therapeutic or medical claims and removing prohibitions on ads that indirectly target to be attractive to minors.
- Therapeutic or medical claims:
 - Current law: Therapeutic or medical claims in cannabis ads must be supported by evidence and include a warning about side effects.
 - SB 594 defines therapeutic or medical claim as “a claim that **explicitly** states a product can diagnose, treat, mitigate, cure, or prevent a disease or condition.”
 - Using this definition will narrow the types of advertisements that would be subject to the evidence or warning requirements.

SB 594, continued.

- Removes prohibition against elements that indirectly appeal to or target underage individuals
 - Cannabis ads may not “directly ~~or indirectly~~ target individuals under the age of 21 years”
 - May not contain an element that “targets ~~or is attractive to~~ minors, including a cartoon character, a mascot, or any other depiction that is commonly used to market products to minors”
- 27 states prohibit advertisements that indirectly advertise to children, whether by indirectly targeting children or using elements that are attractive to minors.
- Hearing 2/26 in Senate Finance Committee.

SB 594, amendments

- Favorable with Amendment Report from Senate Finance Committee, which were adopted. The amended bill has been sent to the whole Senate for a vote.
- Amendments remove the proposed definition of "therapeutic or medical claim."
- The bill as amended still removes language that prohibits ads that indirectly appeal to or are attractive to minors.
- Second Reading Passed with Amendments. Needs to go to the Senate for a full vote.

HB 1519: Cannabis – Management Service Agreements, Advertising, and Penalties – Alterations (Cannabis Reform and Opportunity Act)

- In addition to the advertising changes proposed in SB 594, HB 1519 repeals the outdoor advertising ban in Maryland.
 - Allows for outdoor advertising anywhere, including the premises of the business, except any location that is within 500 feet of:
 - A primary or secondary school,
 - A licensed child-care center or registered child-care home,
 - A playground, recreation center, library, or public park,
 - Place of worship, or
 - A facility that provides substance use treatment.
 - Research shows that exposure to outdoor cannabis advertising as teenagers increases the risk of cannabis use disorder seven-fold.
- Hearing 3/04 at 1 pm in the House Economic Matters Committee. No committee vote as of 3/18.

[HB 295](#) / [SB 112](#): Gaming - Prohibition on Interactive Games and Revenue From Illegal Markets

- A person who operates, conducts, or promotes sweepstakes in Maryland is:
 - Guilty of a misdemeanor
 - Subject to imprisonment for no more than 3 years
 - Subject to a fine of \$10,000-\$100,000
 - Will lose their license

□ Favorable with amendments report by Ways and Means Committee

[HB 371](#) / [SB 708](#): State Lottery - Courier Services - Licensure

- Authorizes the Director of the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency to issue a courier license
 - A licensed courier can create its own website that allows a person in Maryland to buy a lottery ticket through the online account of the courier and then the courier makes the physical lottery ticket purchase
 - The courier can redeem a prize of \$600 or less on behalf of the customer and must give the customer the option to receive the lottery ticket or let the courier store the ticket in lieu of delivery
- Sitting in House Ways & Means Committee and Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

HB 518: Gaming - Problem Gambling and College Athlete Protections

- Institutes standards and procedures that govern sports wagering:
 - Age and identity verification
 - Displaying problem gambling information on online sports wagering platforms
 - Establishing self-imposed limits on the amount of money an individual can deposit
 - Prohibiting the use of credit cards
 - Outlining suspension protocols
 - Data sharing

☐ In the House - Second Reading Passed with Amendments

iGaming Bills: [HB 1255](#), [SB 761](#), [HB 1343](#), [SB 885](#)

- Internet gaming (iGaming) means casino-style gaming through an online gaming system on a computer, mobile device, or any other interactive device.
- Intent to maximize the ability if minorities, women, and minority- and women-owned businesses to participate in the internet gaming industry
- 1% of proceeds distributed to the Problem Gambling Fund
- Just one problem!
 - Online gambling (iGaming) is considered highly addictive, with some studies indicating that online gamblers are as much as [eight times more likely](#) to report compulsive gambling problems compared to traditional, land-based gamblers.

□ SB 761 withdrawn by sponsor, other 3 bills are still in Committee

Upcoming LRC Events

Legislative Zoom

Tuesday, March 31 at 11:30AM

<https://umaryland.zoom.us/j/99736956868?pwd=tlgtrqLhdmahffWXKfHqW2PvGF7k wz.1>

Annual Conference

May 20th @ Maryland Carey Law

Email publichealth@law.umaryland.edu to be added to our legislative listserv

Questions?

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