

Maryland Adult-Use Cannabis Legalization: Select Issues

Mathew Swinburne
Associate Director

Network For Public Health Law-Eastern Region

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Where Can You Use Cannabis?

- ❑ Cannabis can be used in private homes, on private property, or at a licensed consumption site
 - ❑ Rental property/apartment must get the permission of the landlord.
 - ❑ Licensing of consumption sites will not start until late 2024.
- ❑ Cannabis use is prohibited
 - ❑ In public places (smoking).
 - ❑ Cannabis and Hemp covered by Maryland's Clean Indoor Air Act.
 - ❑ At universities and colleges (even medical use).
 - ❑ In a car (even if it is parked).
- ❑ Penalties for public use
 - ❑ First offense \$50/ Subsequent Offense \$250



On-site Consumption License

Businesses that sell cannabis and cannabis products for consumption on location.

- Provide people with a safe legal place to consume cannabis.
- Lower cost entry point to cannabis industry.
- Smoking cannabis indoors is prohibited by the state but allowed outdoors.
- Alcohol and Tobacco sales and use prohibited.
- Maryland Cannabis Administration must develop regulations for these businesses.
- Local government can further regulate these licensees.
- Licenses will not be issued until late 2024 (15 Licenses)

The Law Regarding Youth Possession

- ❑ Under 21 cannot possess cannabis unless a medical cannabis patient.
- ❑ Personal Use Amount (the amount adults can legally possess/1.5 ounces)
 - ❑ **No criminal penalty for youth but subject to a civil fine up to \$100**
- ❑ Civil Use Amount (between 1.5-2.5 ounces)
 - ❑ **Adults and Youth subject to a \$250 civil fine.**
- ❑ Above Civil Use Amount criminal sanctions.
- ❑ Court may refer youth to drug education program, for an assessment for substance use disorder, or substance abuse treatment.

Cannabis Products: Licensed Cannabis Businesses

- ❑ Cannabis flower and pre-rolled
- ❑ Edibles: gummies, candies, baked goods.
 - ❑ Adult-use: 10mg serving/100mg package
 - ❑ **Medical: 40mg/400mg**
- ❑ Concentrates: (hashish, batter, butter, shatter, . . .)
 - ❑ High Potency
 - ❑ 60%< THC by weight
 - ❑ **Only available to medical patients**
- ❑ Vape solutions
- ❑ Transdermal patches, tinctures, topicals



What is Hemp?

- Hemp was legalized by the 2018 Farm Bill.
- the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis. (7 USC 1639o)
- FDA has authority to regulate hemp products but has done very little.
- THC is an intoxicating cannabinoid and comes in many forms or isomers (Delta-9, Delta-8, Delta-10) . .
- The CBD in hemp can be converted to different THC isomers.



50 grams x 0.3%=150mg



Unlicensed Hemp Products

Any location other than a licensed cannabis dispensary is limited to certain low-potency hemp products.

- Most products are restricted to 0.5mg of THC per serving and 2.5 mg of THC per package.
- Allow full spectrum tinctures with higher THC concentrations
 - Must have 15:1 CBD to THC ratio
 - Cannot have more than 2.5mg serving and 100mg per package
- THC restriction includes all forms of THC



Enforcement Operations

- ❑ Licensed cannabis businesses (growers, processors, dispensaries,)
 - ❑ **Maryland Cannabis Administration-Bureau of Enforcement and Compliance**
 - ❑ Annual inspections
 - ❑ Investigation of complaints
 - ❑ Education of licensees
- ❑ Unlicensed shops selling hemp products
 - ❑ **Maryland Alcohol Tobacco and Cannabis Commission**
 - ❑ Conduct enforcement actions for non-compliant hemp products



Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council

1. Promote public health and mitigate **youth use and addiction to cannabis**;
2. Data collection and report data that measures the impact of cannabis consumption and legalization;
3. Impact of legalization on education, behavioral health, and somatic health of **people under 21 years of age**;
4. Initiative to **prevent youth cannabis use**, including educational programs for use in schools.
5. Public health campaigns;
6. Advertising, labeling, product testing, and quality control requirements;
7. Training for health care providers related to cannabis use;
8. Best practices to **reduce the appeal of cannabis to minors**, including advertising, potency, packaging, and labeling standards; and
9. Any other issues that advance public health related to cannabis use and legalization.

Thank you.

Mathew Swinburne
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mswinburne@law.umaryland.edu