



Advisory Board on Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis

STATUTE ALTERATIONS

RELEVANT BILLS

- [Chapter 255 of 2023](#) - Cannabis Reform
- [Chapter 241 of 2024](#) - Cannabis Reform - Alterations

Bold text in the following slides indicates new language. Instances where language was modified or removed is noted.

DEFINITIONS

In §1-309.2, the Cannabis Reform Act and Cannabis Reform Revisions Act maintain the same definitions of the Advisory Board, as follows:

- (a) In this section, “Advisory Board” means the Advisory Board on Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis
- (a) There is an Advisory Board on Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis

DUTIES - CONSIDERATIONS

Changes to existing statute begin in §1-309.2(c)(1), as follows:

The Advisory Board must now consider matters submitted by the Office of Social Equity rather than the Commission, which presently does not exist in language.

- (1) Consider all matters submitted to it by the **OFFICE OF SOCIAL EQUITY**, the Governor, the Maryland Cannabis Administration, or the General Assembly; and

DUTIES - STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

§1-309.2(c)(2)(I) creates a new task for the Advisory Board regarding studying and making recommendations on the impact of rescheduling or removal of cannabis under the federal Controlled Substances Act on the medical and adult-use cannabis industry in the State:

(2) STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON:

I. THE IMPACT ON THE LEGAL, MEDICAL, AND ADULT-USE CANNABIS INDUSTRY IN THE STATE IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

1) RESCHEDULES CANNABIS FROM SCHEDULE I TO SCHEDULE III UNDER THE FEDERAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT; OR

1) REMOVES CANNABIS FROM THE LIST OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES UNDER THE FEDERAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT;

DUTIES - STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

§1-309.2(c)(2)(II) creates a new task for the Advisory Board regarding studying and making recommendations on measures to protect and promote the medical and adult-use cannabis industry in the State considering rescheduling or removal of cannabis under the federal Controlled Substances Act:

(2)(II) MEASURES TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE LEGAL MEDICAL AND ADULT-USE CANNABIS INDUSTRY IN THE STATE IF CANNABIS IS:

- 1) RESCHEDULED FROM SCHEDULE I TO SCHEDULE III; OR**
- 1) REMOVED FROM THE FEDERAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT;**

DUTIES - STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

§1-309.2(c)(2)(III) and (IV) creates a new task for the Advisory Board regarding studying and making recommendations on measures to enable standard and micro licensees to compete in interstate commerce as well as an adequate supply of affordable, varying cannabis products for medical patients:

(2)(III) MEASURES TO ENABLE STANDARD AND MICRO CANNABIS LICENSEES AND SMALL BUSINESSES TO COMPETE IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE RELATED TO THE CULTIVATION, MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION, AND TESTING OF CANNABIS AND CANNABIS PRODUCTS;

(2)(IV) METHODS TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF AFFORDABLE CANNABIS AND CANNABIS PRODUCTS FOR QUALIFYING PATIENTS, INCLUDING CANNABIS AND CANNABIS PRODUCTS CONTAINING VARYING LEVELS OF POTENCY;

DUTIES - STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

§1-309.2(c)(2)(V) creates a new task for the Advisory Board regarding studying and making recommendations regarding social equity applicants, licensees, and small, minority, and women-owned businesses:

(2)(V) METHODS TO ASSIST SOCIAL EQUITY APPLICANTS, SOCIAL EQUITY LICENSEES, AND SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES TO:

- (1) ACCESS FUNDS FOR OPERATING OR CAPITAL EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH A BUSINESS PARTICIPATING IN THE MEDICAL AND ADULT-USE CANNABIS INDUSTRY;**
- (1) OBTAIN FINANCING FROM A LENDER, AS DEFINED IN §36-1401 OF THIS ARTICLE;
AND**
- (1) PARTNER WITH OPERATIONAL CANNABIS LICENSEES IN WAYS THAT THE SOCIAL EQUITY APPLICANTS OR LICENSEES OR SMALL, MINORITY, OR WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES RETAIN OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF THE LICENSES AND BUSINESSES.**

MEMBERSHIP

§1-309.2(d) slightly alters the Advisory Board members. First, (d)(1) from the original bill named the Director of the Maryland Cannabis Administration as the Chair of the Advisory Board, but that was removed in the Cannabis Reform - Alterations bill.

(d)(2) changes language regarding the election of a chair as well:

(2) THE ADVISORY BOARD SHALL ELECT A CHAIR FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

OTHER CLEAN-UP

§1-309.2(f)(4) updates referenced sections due to additions to statute:

(f)(4) The positions for members appointed under **(D)(1)(VII) THROUGH (XI)** of this section become effective when the first licenses are issued under those respective license types.

And finally, §1-309.2(J) directs the MCA to staff the board:

(J) THE MARYLAND CANNABIS ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE ADVISORY BOARD.