



Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform

Dear Delegate

Support HB1035 - State Government – Attorney General – Independent Law Enforcement Prosecution Unit

“Who will police the policemen?” This is a perennial problem. Currently, local police investigators investigate the alleged misconduct of their peers. If we have learned anything over the past five years, since the fatal injury to Freddie Gray in the back of a police van, and culminating with the fallout from the Gun Trace Task Force, it is that the current disciplinary system doesn't work.

Moving these investigations out of local police departments and local prosecution offices is an essential step in assuring a just outcome.

As your constituent I strongly urge you to support this legislation.

Support HB0032 - Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation (Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021)

HB0032 would legalize marijuana use for adults in Maryland, as well as providing safe regulations comparable to those for liquor sales. It would also provide tax revenue dedicated to health, safety, education and the general fund. Alcohol prohibition's repeal resulted in huge drops in crime and law enforcement costs; this bill will bring the same needed changes for marijuana, which scientific studies have found to be, on the whole less dangerous than alcohol.

Another serious problem with marijuana's criminal status involves systemic racism. While studies show that white and black Americans use the drug at similar rates, blacks are arrested, charged, and incarcerated at multiple times greater rates than whites. One estimate is that 88% of all marijuana possession arrests are made against blacks. The resultant discriminatory economic and social costs to families and communities are unacceptable and should be eliminated.

The number of people currently incarcerated in our prisons and detention centers for marijuana possession is alarming. On Tuesday, 2/16, the House Judiciary committee will consider HB0032, which would put an end to this discriminatory law and put marijuana to use as a tax revenue resource for Maryland.

Again, as your constituent I urge you to legalize, regulate, and tax marijuana in Maryland.

Sincerely,

