

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2023 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. **7**

Resolution No. 104 -2023

Introduced by: Opel Jones

A RESOLUTION creating a Cannabis Workgroup to study the effects of adult-use cannabis legalization in Howard County and recommend legislative actions to promote health, public safety, and equity in the local adult-use cannabis market; and generally relating to adult-use cannabis.

Introduced and read first time _____, 2023.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on _____, 2023.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted___, Adopted with amendments___, Failed___, Withdrawn___, by the County Council on _____, 2023.

Certified By _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, the people of Maryland approved a constitutional amendment to
2 legalize adult-use cannabis in the State of Maryland as of July 1st, 2023; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, in 2023, the General Assembly of Maryland adopted HB 556 and SB 516 to
5 establish the regulatory and tax framework for the adult-use cannabis market statewide, which
6 included authority for local counties to receive tax revenue, create a Community Reinvestment
7 and Repair Fund, set zoning regulations, authorize on-site consumption facilities, and take other
8 steps to implement the adult-use cannabis market; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, the legalization of adult-use cannabis has the potential to make a profound
11 impact on Howard County health, public safety, finances, business, and social and racial equity;
12 and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, in order to prepare for the effects of adult-use cannabis legalization in
15 Howard County, the County Council seeks to establish a Cannabis Workgroup comprised of
16 County officials to research and report on possible effects and develop County policies.

17
18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
19 Maryland this _____ day of _____, 2023 that there is a Cannabis Workgroup
20 (“Workgroup”);

21
22 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Workgroup shall study the potential
23 effects and recommend legislative actions to the Howard County Council for the implementation
24 adult-use cannabis legalization in the County, including:

- 25
26 1. examining changes in State law on cannabis and how those laws will impact the County;
27 2. recommending changes to Howard County zoning laws governing cannabis businesses,
28 such as dispensaries, processors, and growers;
29 3. recommending criteria for on-site consumption facilities;
30 4. proposing uses for potential revenue allocated to the County from the State from
31 cannabis taxes, including guidelines for the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund;

- 1 5. identifying ways the County can ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion in the adult-use
2 cannabis market; and
3 6. any other actions the County can take to promote County health, public safety, finances,
4 business, and social and racial equity in the adult-use cannabis market.
5

6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Workgroup shall consist of one
7 representative from each of the following Howard County agencies and offices:
8

- 9 1. The Police Department;
10 2. The Department of Fire and Rescue Services;
11 3. The State’s Attorney’s Office;
12 4. The Department of Finance;
13 5. The Economic Development Authority;
14 6. The Department of Planning and Zoning;
15 7. The Office of Law;
16 8. The Agricultural Preservation Board; and
17 9. The Department of Health.

18
19 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Workgroup shall convene its first
20 meeting on or before August 1st, 2023 and shall meet at least once every two weeks, and shall
21 hold any other meetings and hearings as necessary.
22

23 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Workgroup shall also consist of one member
24 that resides in each of the County's five Councilmanic districts and a Chair that shall be
25 appointed by the County Executive.
26

27 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that there shall be a final report presented to the
28 County Council on or before February 12, 2024.
29

1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Workgroup shall terminate on March 11,
2 2024.