

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Bobby A. Zirkin, Chair
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Gene M. Ransom, III

DATE: February 26, 2019

RE: **LETTER OF INFORMATION** – Senate Bill 857 – *Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission – Food Containing Medical Cannabis*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, submits this letter of information for Senate Bill 857.

Senate Bill 857 authorizes cannabis dispensaries to acquire, possess, transfer, transport, sell, distribute, or dispense food containing medical cannabis, commonly referred to as “edibles”. While MedChi does not have a position on the legislation, it does wish to provide the Committee with information for consideration in its deliberations. Issues relative to the packaging, storage, patient education, and safety should be considered if edibles are to be authorized. For example, the issue of cannabis exposure from edibles by children has been concerning. Several states that have policies on edibles either proscribe them or restrict them to improve safety, such as having child-proof packaging of unit size doses. Provisions for patient education about appropriate storage and requirements of child proof packaging should be considered. In Colorado, confusion surrounding the serving size for edible products and the delayed onset of the effects of THC are thought to have contributed to overconsumption. Regulations were changed to ensure easier identification of the average serving size in a single edible product. Colorado, Oregon, and Washington now require a universal symbol to be affixed to edibles. Four states, Alaska, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington prohibit the manufacture or packaging of edibles that appeal to youth. Given the increased risk of inadvertent overdose and other related implications associated with edible products consumed by adults, children, and pets, MedChi urges the Committee to consider appropriate requirements to address these increased risks and other health and safety concerns. If the legislation is enacted, MedChi would welcome the opportunity to work with the Commission to address these safety concerns.

For more information call:

Gene M. Ransom, III
Chief Executive Officer
410-539-0872