



Senate Bill 1008

Alcohol and Cannabis - Cannabinoid Beverages Off-Premises Sales Permit - Establishment

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

WITH AMENDMENTS

Date: March 31, 2026

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 1008 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill authorizes the sale of cannabinoid beverages through holders of alcoholic beverage licenses with off-sale privileges, contingent on approval from local licensing boards, and establishes a distribution framework through licensed wholesalers. SB 1008 directs all sales tax revenue from cannabinoid beverages exclusively to the State's General Fund.

This approach represents a departure from the State's existing cannabis revenue framework, which recognizes the role of local governments by providing a share of revenues to support public health, safety, and enforcement responsibilities. Under current law, Maryland counties receive a small share of cannabis revenues, trivially small in contrast compared to the local governments in other states, making the absence of any local distribution in this bill particularly concerning. Under SB 1008, counties would be responsible for overseeing this new marketplace without receiving even their current minimal portion of the associated revenues.

Counties will incur costs related to enforcement, compliance, and administration, including oversight by local licensing boards, coordination with law enforcement, and addressing potential community impacts. Without a corresponding revenue stream, this bill creates an imbalance between local responsibilities and available resources.

MACo takes no issue with the main intent of SB 1008 to establish a regulated market for cannabinoid beverages. However, the bill should be amended to ensure that counties receive a fair and consistent share of the revenues generated from these products, similar to existing cannabis sales. Further, the General Assembly should recognize the role of local governments needed to support a successful and safe marketplace, and create a fairer revenue structure overall to properly support these needs.

Accordingly, MACo respectfully requests that the Committee amend SB 1008 to provide a local revenue distribution and requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report.