

**Office of the County Auditor**  
**Auditor's Analysis**

**Council Bill No. 32-2023**

Introduced: June 5, 2023

Auditor: Lori Buchman

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Fiscal Impact:

Based on our review of this legislation, we anticipate that administering these duties will result in additional annual County expenditures. However, we are currently unable to estimate the amount of these expenditures, as they will be based on activities to be planned by future Adult-Use Cannabis Advisory Panel members and future budgetary decisions of the County Administration.

For reference, the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission, La Alianza Latina Commission, and the LGBTQIA+ Commission received County General Fund expenditure appropriations in Fiscal Year 2024 of \$16,775, \$35,425, and \$15,875, respectively.

We have outstanding questions regarding this legislation.

Purpose:

The proposed legislation creates an Adult-Use Cannabis Advisory Panel (the Panel) to study the implementation of adult-use cannabis in Howard County and to recommend how the County can promote health, public safety, business, and social and racial equity in the market.

The legislation sets membership terms, including how the Panel shall be comprised, the method of appointment and member terms, staffing of the Panel, and requirements for meetings and reporting.

This bill is companion legislation to Council Resolution 104-2023, which proposes to create a Cannabis Workgroup.

Other Comments:

The Panel will consist of twelve to twenty members. It will be comprised of five ex-officio members and appointed members who live or are employed in Howard County and meet certain criteria. Members of the Panel will be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by Council and will serve overlapping terms of three years.

The County Executive will designate personnel to serve as staff support for the Panel.

The Panel will meet at least quarterly each year and submit an annual report on or before July 1 of each year.