

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Resolution No. 104-2023

Introduced: June 5, 2023

Auditor: Lori Buchman

Fiscal Impact:

Based on our review of the activities of the Cannabis Workgroup, which are noted in the proposed resolution, we anticipate this legislation will result in a de minimis fiscal impact to the extent that County appropriations will be used to administratively support the workgroup.

We have outstanding questions regarding this legislation.

Purpose:

The General Assembly of Maryland adopted House Bill 556 and Senate Bill 516 which established a framework for the adult-use cannabis market. This resolution will establish a Cannabis Workgroup to recommend legislative actions for the implementation of adult-use cannabis legalization in Howard County, including:

- Examining changes in State law and how those laws will impact Howard County
- Recommend changes to Howard County zoning laws governing cannabis businesses
- Recommend criteria for on-site consumption facilities
- Propose uses for potential revenue allocated to Howard County from cannabis taxes
- Identify ways Howard County can ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion in the adult-use cannabis market

This resolution is companion legislation to Council Bill 32-2023, which proposes to create an Adult-Use Cannabis Advisory Panel.

Other Comments:

The workgroup will consist of one representative from nine various Howard County agencies and offices, and one member that resides in each of the County's five Councilmanic districts. The Chair shall be appointed by the County Executive.

The workgroup will begin meeting on or before August 1, 2023 and will meet at least every two weeks. Other meetings and hearings will be held as needed. The workgroup will terminate on March 11, 2024.

A final report will be presented to the County Council on or before February 12, 2024.