



Open Air and Vehicle Marijuana Legislation Introduced in Maryland House of Delegates Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith, D- 23A

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Annapolis, MD - HB 183, introduced today by Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith (D-Prince George's) will make smoking marijuana in a public place in Maryland a misdemeanor subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 and will prohibit a driver from smoking or consuming marijuana in the passenger area of a motor vehicle in Maryland, under the same Maryland Transportation Article which also prohibits consumption of alcohol in a vehicle.

"While most Marylanders are in full agreement that we do not need to fill our jails with citizens who engage in personal recreational use of small amounts of marijuana, we are also in full agreement that we do not want our roads full of drivers who are high or impaired, either with alcohol or drugs," said Valentino-Smith.

"It is only rational to limit the public consumption of marijuana. Our public parks, beaches, sidewalks and boardwalks are for the enjoyment of all. Just as we, as a State, limit the public consumption of alcohol and prohibit smoking tobacco products publicly, it is good public policy to place marijuana in these same categories," said Valentino-Smith. "It is my hope that we will swiftly pass HB 183 and put these protections into Maryland law for the good of all Marylanders."

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