

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2017 Legislative Session

Reference No.:	CB-103-2017
Draft No.:	1
Committee:	PLANNING, ZONING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Date:	10/04/2017
Action:	NR

Committee Vote: No Recommendation, 4-1 (In favor: Council Members Harrison, Franklin, Glaros, and Patterson. Opposed: Council Member Toles)

The Committee Director summarized the purpose of the legislation and informed the Committee of written referral comments that were received. Council Member Taveras, the bill's sponsor, informed the Committee that the deadline is approaching for medical cannabis dispensaries to find a location in accordance with the licensing requirements of the State legislation authorizing this use. Ms. Taveras explained that the industry is having difficulty finding locations based on regulations codified pursuant to the enactment of CB-5-2016, and this legislation modifies certain location criteria for dispensary locations in the C-O and C-S-C Zones.

The Planning Board took no position on the legislation and provided staff analysis in a September 28, 2017 letter to Council Chairman Davis. The Office of Law reviewed CB-103-2017 and determined that the bill is in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment.

Andre Gingles, representing TSG, Organic; Norman Rivera; Marcus McKay, of Metropolitan Medicinals; and Arthur Horne, representing a dispensary license holder in Senate District 47, testified in support of the legislation. Mr. Horne suggested that the Committee also consider modification to locational criteria for other zones.

Council Member Patterson expressed concern with moving the bill forward without having enough time to evaluate the impact of the modification and to seek community input. Council Member Toles inquired if a map was available depicting potential locations based on the proposed change to minimum distance requirement for dispensary uses from 500 feet to 300 feet from schools, parks, and certain residential zones. Rana Hightower, M-NCPPC Planning Department, responded that the map was not available at the time, but could be provided at a later date. A request was made that the map also include a 400 foot minimum distance requirement.

The Committee discussed tabling the legislation until the map information was available and the impact could be evaluated. A motion to table the bill, made by Council Member Toles, was seconded by Council Vice-Chair Glaros. After further discussion of the time limits to conduct an additional Committee meeting prior to the deadline for introduction of bills, Vice-Chair Glaros withdrew her second. The Committee also discussed discharging the bill from Planning, Zoning

and Economic Development and then referring the item to Committee of the Whole.

The Committee voted No Recommendation on the legislation as drafted with the understanding that further discussion may still be held in Committee of the Whole after receipt of the mapping information.