

SENATE BILL 299

A3, C3

5lr1425

By: **Senators Carozza and Feldman**

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Cannabis Agents – Registration – Security Guards**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that a cannabis agent who is employed to provide security
4 services for a cannabis licensee or cannabis registrant as a security guard or by a
5 security guard agency is not required to obtain a State or national criminal history
6 records check if the cannabis agent is authorized to provide security guard services
7 in accordance with certain provisions of law; and generally relating to cannabis agent
8 registration and security guards.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
11 Section 36–501
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2024 Replacement Volume)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
16 Section 19–101(a), (k), and (l)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis**

22 36–501.

23 (a) A cannabis agent must be registered with the Administration before the agent
24 may volunteer or work for a cannabis licensee or cannabis registrant.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(b) A cannabis agent registration is valid for 2 years.

(c) **(1) [To] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, TO** register as a cannabis agent with the Administration, an individual must:

[(1)] (I) be at least 21 years old; and

[(2)] (II) if the records are legally accessible, obtain a State and national criminal history records check in accordance with § 36–505 of this subtitle.

(2) A CANNABIS AGENT WHO IS EMPLOYED TO PROVIDE SECURITY SERVICES FOR A CANNABIS LICENSEE OR CANNABIS REGISTRANT AS A SECURITY GUARD OR BY A SECURITY GUARD AGENCY, AS DEFINED IN § 19–101 OF THE BUSINESS OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS ARTICLE, IS NOT REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A STATE OR NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 36–505 OF THIS SUBTITLE IF THE CANNABIS AGENT IS AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE SECURITY GUARD SERVICES UNDER TITLE 19, SUBTITLE 4 OF THE BUSINESS OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS ARTICLE.

(d) (1) The Administration may not register as a cannabis agent an individual who does not meet the criteria established under subsection (c) of this section.

(2) The Administration may disqualify an individual from registering as a cannabis agent if the individual has been convicted of or pleaded nolo contendere to a crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside.

(e) The Administration may not deny a cannabis agent registration based on any cannabis–related offenses occurring before July 1, 2023.

(f) A cannabis licensee shall require each registered cannabis agent to complete an annual responsible vendor training program authorized under this title.

(g) A registration of a cannabis agent issued by the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission on or before July 1, 2023, shall:

(1) be valid under this title; and

(2) authorize the cannabis agent to be employed by or volunteer with a licensed cannabis business.

Article – Business Occupations and Professions

19–101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(k) “Security guard” means an individual who, regardless of whether the individual is described as a security guard, watchman, or private patrolman or by other title:

(1) (i) is an employee of a security guard agency; and

(ii) provides security guard services to another person on behalf of the security guard agency; or

(2) (i) is an employee of a security guard employer; and

(ii) provides security guard services to the security guard employer.

(l) (1) “Security guard agency” means a person who conducts a business that provides security guard services.

(2) “Security guard agency” does not include:

(i) a person that is primarily engaged in the business of owning, maintaining, or otherwise managing property; or

(ii) a security guard employer.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.