



# **Zoning Text Amendment TXT2025- 00270, Regulations for Standard Dispensaries of Cannabis**

Planning Commission

May 28, 2025



# **Cannabis Regulation in Maryland**

- **Medical cannabis dispensaries have been allowed since 2015, with two permitted per legislative district**
- **Regulations and licensing are enforced by Maryland Cannabis Authority.**
- **Legislation for standard dispensaries that allowed retailing of cannabis for personal use was approved in 2023, with clarifying legislation approved in 2024 and 2025**



# **State Regulation of Standard Dispensaries**

**The 2023 legislation enacted separation requirements, and did not permit municipalities to enact more stringent requirements than the following:**

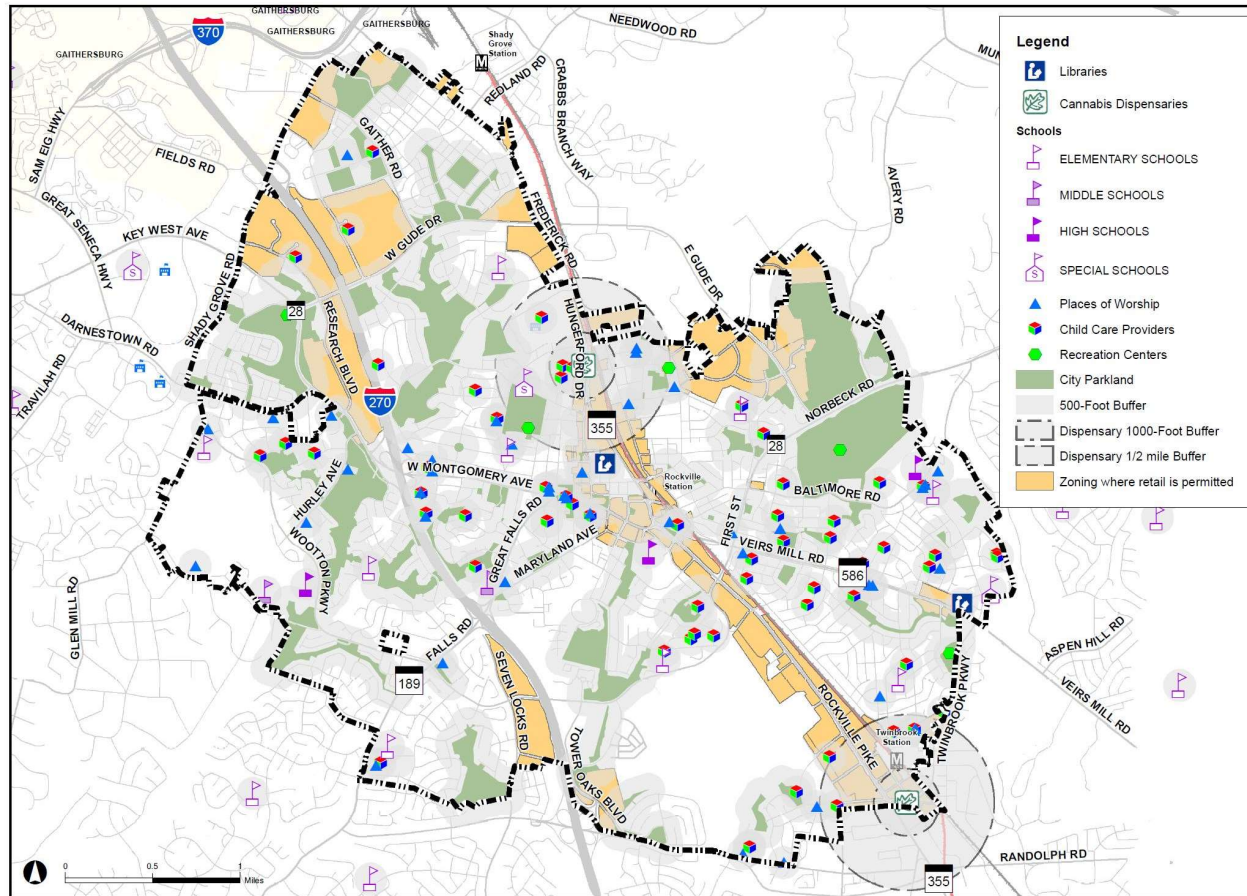
- Required separation distance of 500 feet between standard dispensaries and certain sensitive uses: primary school, secondary school, childcare center, playground, recreation center, library, place of worship and public park**
- Required separation distance of 1,000 feet between standard dispensaries**



## Options for Municipalities

- **The 2024 legislation allows municipalities to enforce the distance restrictions when making zoning decisions for licensed dispensaries, and allowed some flexibility in separation distance.**
- **The legislation does not permit municipalities to enact more stringent requirements for standard cannabis dispensaries that those enacted for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages. Currently, the city Zoning Ordinance does not include separation distance requirements for the sale of alcoholic beverages.**

# Required Buffers for Cannabis Dispensaries





# Questions?



## Sample Motion:

- **I move that the Planning Commission recommend to the Mayor and Council that Zoning Text Amendment TXT2025-00270 be approved.**