

Revised/Additional Information

Agenda Item #	4
Meeting Date	February 18, 2014
Prepared By	Jessie Carpenter City Clerk
Approved By	Brian T. Kenner City Manager

Discussion Item	Omnibus Resolution Commenting on State Legislation
Background	<p>Councilmember Grimes has drafted an omnibus resolution of support for the legislation listed below. The resolution is attached for Council review and consideration at the special session.</p> <p>SB 394 – Statewide Container Recycling Refund Program (Bottle Bill)</p> <p>HB 1243 / SB 811 – Corporations and Associations – Maryland Securities Act – Registration and Filing Exemptions (Local Business Investment Law)</p> <p>HB 879 – Maryland Marijuana Decriminalization Act</p> <p>HB 880 / SB 658 – Marijuana Control Act of 2014 (Marijuana Legalization)</p>
Policy	The City Council advocates for legislation in the interest of the City of Takoma Park.
Fiscal Impact	n/a
Attachments	<p>Omnibus Resolution</p> <p>All legislation may be viewed at the General Assembly website: http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frame1st.aspx?tab=home</p>
Recommendation	Consider the resolution.
Special Consideration	

2
3 Introduced by:

4 **CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

5 **RESOLUTION 2014-**

6 **OMNIBUS RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR 2014 MARYLAND STATE**
7 **LEGISLATION [ESTABLISHING A BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION, RULE**
8 **SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT, AND MARIJUANA LAW REFORM]**
9

10 WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park wishes to take positions on legislation, of
11 direct concern to the city and its residents, before the Maryland General Assembly
12 during the legislature’s 2014 session; and
13

14 WHEREAS, such legislation includes a bottle bill (Senate Bill 394), reform of the
15 state’s marijuana laws, and facilitation of local business investment, all of direct
16 concern to the city and its residents; and
17

18 WHEREAS, SB 394, the Statewide Container Recycling Refund Program would
19 require a redeemable beverage container sold in the state to indicate a refund
20 value and provisions for redemption of such containers; and
21

22 WHEREAS, SB 394 would boost recycling rates and reduce litter, both matters of
23 established city policy, without placing a significant burden on the city or its
24 residents; and
25

26 WHEREAS, economic development – support for local businesses and jobs and
27 shopping – is of keen interest to the City of Takoma Park and the local community,
28 creating opportunity in for residents and businesses alike and enhancing the
29 livability and the local business climate; and
30

31 WHEREAS, members of the Takoma Park community, who represent or are
32 affiliated with organizations that include the Old Takoma Business Association, the
33 Crossroads Community Food Network, and the Takoma Foundation, have been
34 pursuing approaches that facilitate local investment in local small businesses and
35 have identified ability of individuals to provide small loans, and of local small
36 businesses to accept such loans, as one promising mechanism; and
37

38 WHEREAS, District 20 Senator Jamie Raskin and Delegate Tom Hucker have, at
39 the behest of the Takoma Park advocates, introduced a Local Business Investment
40 Law, Senate Bill 811/House Bill 1243, to allow Maryland businesses to accept
41 crowd-funded loans of not more than \$100 each, totaling up to \$100,000 per year,
42 and the Takoma Park advocates have asked the City Council to endorse the bills; and
43

44 WHEREAS, current criminal penalties for the possession of marijuana for
45 personal use, and the criminal economy created by the illegality of marijuana, create
46 a great societal burden that disproportionately affects racial and ethnic minorities,
47 in Montgomery County as everywhere else in the U.S, with consequences for
48 individuals charged with possession that may be life-long and life-altering far out of
49 proportion to the gravity of the crime; and

50
51 WHEREAS, the creation of medical-marijuana dispensations in Maryland and
52 many other states, including in the District of Columbia, where the Takoma Wellness
53 Center operates just outside Takoma Park's border, and the legalization of
54 recreational marijuana in Colorado and pending licensing of legal marijuana sales in
55 Washington state, have not created significant public-health impact nor detrimental
56 societal costs; and

57
58 WHEREAS, failing the legalization of marijuana possession and the regulation and
59 taxing of production and distribution, decriminalization would less the adverse and
60 out-or-proportion impact of marijuana enforcement on all segments of society, and
61 would decrease Takoma Park's enforcement costs; and

62
63 WHEREAS, House Bill 879, the Maryland Marijuana Decriminalization Act,
64 introduced by District 20 Delegate Heather Mizeur and co-sponsored by District 20
65 Delegate Sheila Hixson and Tom Hucker, would replace the state's existing criminal
66 penalty for possession of a small amount of marijuana with a civil offense for
67 possession of 1 ounce or less; and

68
69 WHEREAS, House Bill 880 / Senate Bill 658, the Marijuana Control Act of 2014,
70 co-sponsored by all member of the District 20 delegation, would repeal specified
71 criminal prohibitions against the use, possession, and sale of marijuana, with certain
72 conditions; and

73
74 WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park supports each piece of legislation cited in this
75 resolution.

76
77 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA
78 PARK, MARYLAND THAT the City of Takoma Park supports enactment of the
79 following legislation and of cross-filed bills yet to be introduced in the House of
80 Delegates or Senate:

- 81
- 82 • The Statewide Container Recycling Refund Program
 - 83
 - 84 • The Local Business Investment Law
 - 85
 - 86 • The Maryland Marijuana Decriminalization Act
 - 87
 - 88 • The Marijuana Control Act of 2014; and

89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Manager is directed to communicate the city's position, by simple letter or other means, to the members of the District 20 delegation.

Adopted this ____ day of February, 2014.

ATTEST:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk