



NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 23, 2015

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“Medical Cannabis Comes to Maryland” - New Forum Announced for MACo’s Summer Conference

Annapolis, MD (07/23/2015) – The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) has added a new session to the Summer Conference line-up to provide county officials with a forum to discuss the approaching implementation of the Maryland Medical Cannabis Program.

Maryland is one of 23 states that has authorized the medicinal use of cannabis. Recently, the public comment period opened for Maryland’s proposed regulations. Regulations will likely be adopted as final in the fall of 2015 and the doors will open for the program’s first phase of applications shortly after. Medical cannabis is expected to be available to patients in the second half of 2016. Counties across the state are preparing for the start of the program.

The MACo Summer Conference session “Medical Cannabis Comes to Maryland” will give the audience updates from members of the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission on state regulations for medical cannabis and on the implementation timeline and process. The session will involve brief presentations followed by an in-depth Q&A session to allow for discussion.

The session will be held Thursday, August 13, 2015 from 1:00 pm until 1:45 pm at MACo’s Summer Conference in Ocean City, Maryland. More information about the session may be found below:

Medical Cannabis Comes to Maryland

Description: *The medicinal use of cannabis may be on its way to a community near you. State regulations have undergone public comment and are undergoing approval. An implementation timetable includes application processes for medicinal cannabis growers and dispensaries before the end of the year. Where do counties fit into this picture? What is your county’s role in approving, licensing, zoning, and overseeing these State-sanctioned facilities? Members of the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission and a cannabis expert will discuss the regulations, timetable, and the county role in this Q&A style forum built for the county decision-maker.*

Speakers:

- *Hannah L. Byron, Executive Director, Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission*
- *Debra Miran, Member, Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission*

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About MACo's Summer Conference:

The 2015 MACo Summer Conference will be held August 12-15 at the Roland Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, Maryland. The theme of the 2015 conference is "Energize. Capitalize. Mobilize." focusing on being proactive about today's economy. This conference is about the challenges county governments can address, the actions they can take, and the strengths they can leverage to achieve the best gains for Maryland's counties and citizens. Participants will learn about the current economy from the local government perspective, how they can foster economic growth and improve the business climate, and the strategic partners available at all levels of government so that they can work together to make significant strides towards a healthier economic outlook for Maryland.

MACo's 2015 President, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, expressed his thoughts about the Summer Conference: "I look forward to seeing public officials, staff, and interested persons from across our great state at the MACo Summer Conference," said MACo President and Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett. "This will be a great opportunity to make, renew and deepen our connections in order to better address the challenges and the opportunities the future will bring."

Earlier press releases, the conference schedule, descriptions of the educational sessions, and a listing of confirmed exhibitors can be found at www.mdcountries.org/MACoCon.

About the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo): MACo is a non-profit and non-partisan organization that serves Maryland county governments by articulating their needs and ideas to the Maryland General Assembly. The Association's membership is composed of county elected officials and representatives from Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. MACo's members determine Association policy and positions on executive and legislative proposals through an elected Board of Directors and Legislative Committee. Through MACo's advocacy, training, education programs, and annual conferences, members are provided with endless opportunities to improve their capacity to serve their residents.

More information and conference program updates are provided at www.mdcountries.org.

Note to Members of the Press: You are invited to attend the conference. You may obtain press materials via www.mdcountries.org/SC15PressRegistration.