

## Senate draft amending The Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act, Chapter 334 of the Acts of 2016

*Principles and goals – to implement the will of the voters and eliminate the illicit market for the sale and distribution of marijuana*

### Preserving the will of the voters while strengthening oversight in certain areas

- Expands the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) to five members to create a strong and balanced governance structure that incorporates more diverse viewpoints and insulates against capture:
  - one appointment each from the Treasurer, Governor and Attorney General, with two additional consensus appointments;
  - Treasurer selects the chair and the CCC selects the Executive Director who oversees day-to-day operations;
  - commissioners, with the exception of the chair, serve without compensation and will serve staggered terms to preserve continuity.
- Improves coordination between the CCC and the Cannabis Advisory Board (CAB) by designating the Executive Director chair of the CAB and diversifies membership to include representation from the Departments of Public Health, Agricultural Resources, Public Safety and others.
- Preserves the possession and home-grow provisions of the ballot question.
- Ensures that all revenue collected on marijuana sales will first cover the full costs of the regulatory structure with the remaining funds available for public health and safety as well as the needs of our communities.
- Preserves the right of voters to vote on proposed bans within their town while providing more guidance to municipalities and allowing for a procedure for municipalities which ban sales to vote to allow sales in the future.
- Establishes a high-level special commission to study and report on the effects of impaired driving and the steps that can be taken to detect impaired drivers.
- Mandates clear advertising, packaging, and labeling standards while preserving flexibility for the CCC to adjust to changing industry practices.
- Ensures the independence of marijuana testing laboratories by prohibiting conflicts of interest.
- Creates procedures to avoid unnecessary duplication during the application process for medical facilities already approved by DPH.
- Implements a strong research agenda that tracks marijuana use trends, economic trends and impacts, monitors the elimination of the illicit market, tracks employment

trends in the marijuana industry, and compiles data on any continued enforcement of Chapter 94C crimes related to marijuana.

- Creates public awareness campaigns to reduce youth usage, reduce impaired driving, and educate about responsible usage.
- Studies ways to improve energy efficiency and reduce water usage in the industry.

#### Expanding economic opportunities for all

- Removes the head start for businesses already licensed for medical marijuana so that all individuals and business have a fair shot at entering this industry.
- Allows for the production and sale of industrial hemp under the Department of Agriculture.
- Requires the CCC to encourage participation by farmers and small business, including providing lower priced licenses and the ability to form cooperatives to small cultivators.

#### Promoting Justice

- Clarifies that individuals who were charged with marijuana crimes in the past for actions that would no longer be criminal can have their criminal records sealed and creates a public awareness campaign to help these individuals do that.
- Ensures that possession of marijuana by those under 21 is treated the same way as underage alcohol possession.
- Promotes opportunities in communities impacted by the war on drugs.

#### Protecting and Preserving the Medical Marijuana Program

- Protects the ability of the medical marijuana program to serve patients and reduces bureaucracy by carefully transferring the oversight of the medical marijuana program to the CCC over the next 18 months.
- Retains the current medical trust fund as an exclusive source of funding for the revenue neutral medical program.
- Institutes significant privacy protections for patients participating in the medical marijuana program.
- Helps current medical marijuana facilities compete by giving them flexibility to convert into a domestic business corporation or other business entity if they chose.