

Langlin, Steven

From: Lawton <lawton@maine.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:34 PM
To: Langlin, Steven
Subject: RE: MMJ Program

Sorry, LD243

From: Langlin, Steven [<mailto:Steven.Langlin@legislature.maine.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:31 PM
To: 'Lawton'
Subject: RE: MMJ Program

Hello,

Is this in reference to any specific LD?

Thank you,

Steven Langlin
Committee Clerk
Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Joint Select Committee on Marijuana Legalization Implementation
Maine State Legislature
(207) 287-4149

From: Lawton [<mailto:lawton@maine.rr.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:30 PM
To: Langlin, Steven
Cc: 'MMCMaine'
Subject: MMJ Program

Medical Marijuana Caregivers represent a cottage industry of small manufacturers who serve two important purposes in the State of Maine. First, they provide quality pain and stress relief for many residents suffering from a range of Medical conditions. Caregivers afford easy, personal access to medication and are compassionate individuals who often accommodate patients unable to travel. Similar to the microbrewing industry compared with major breweries such as Miller, the caregivers of Maine can offer a more hand-crafted and selective variety of products to patients that larger recreational enterprises would not economically undertake.

Secondly, the licensing revenue of Caregivers and their patients represent a significant contribution to the Maine economy. Maine Medical Marijuana Caregivers are not financed by large national corporations or organizations and

their expenditures and revenues are almost exclusively paid and spent within the state. This cottage industry represents a major opportunity for small business development in Maine.

A significant fear in Maine, particularly within the Caregiver community, is the idea that the commercial opportunity for recreational marijuana production and sales will not only consume the medical marijuana marketplace but will, by eliminating the Medical Marijuana Caregivers program, shut the door to small manufacturing and sales opportunities from the Medical Marijuana market by the demands and clout of large financial interests and their concomitant incentives and attractions to State Legislators and a potential for unforeseen tax revenue.

Why not allow both markets to flourish and work out their participation and place in this emerging opportunity? If it is tax revenue that is of concern, with a fear that medical marijuana would be exempt from any tax levied against the sale of recreational marijuana, then create a reimbursement program for holders of Medical Marijuana cards to seek reimbursement for legitimate use of limited marijuana consumption. Such a program would preclude tax exempt status for marijuana products that superseded a recommended limit by any one individual purchaser. With that said, I believe there has to be better regulation for both Medical and Recreational or we are going to be in a black market predicament like Colorado. Medical, like recreational, has to have a limit on licenses. If somebody gives up their license, then you can issue a new one. Much like the lobster industry.

Without getting in the weeds here regarding implementation of rules for medical and recreational marijuana use, the important consideration is to view the industry from both sides of the fence and not lose sight of the opportunity for everyone to benefit from the referendum that allows for recreational marijuana to come to Maine.

Thank you for considering,

Pat and Bob Lawton,

Herbal remedies