

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act To Provide for Oversight of Maine's Recreational Marijuana Laws

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §2444, sub-§1, as enacted by IB 2015, c. 5, §1, is amended to read:

1. Commissioner is chief administrative officer. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is the chief administrative officer of the state licensing authority and may employ such officers and employees as may be determined to be necessary. The state licensing authority has the authority to:

- A. Grant or refuse licenses for the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale and testing of retail marijuana and retail marijuana products as provided by this chapter;
- B. Suspend, fine, restrict or revoke licenses under paragraph A upon a violation of this chapter or any rule adopted pursuant to this chapter; and
- C. Impose any penalty authorized by this chapter or any rule adopted pursuant to this chapter.

Pursuant to Title 22, section 412, subsection 6, paragraph A, the Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health serves in an advisory capacity to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry on public health matters related to retail marijuana.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §412, sub-§6, ¶A, as amended by PL 2011, c. 306, §2, is further amended to read:

A. The Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health shall:

- (1) Participate as appropriate to help ensure the state public health system is ready and maintained for accreditation;
- (4) Assist the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention in planning for the essential public health services and resources to be provided in each district and across the State in the most efficient, effective and evidence-based manner possible;
- (5) Receive reports from the tribal district coordinating council for public health regarding readiness for tribal public health systems for accreditation if offered; ~~and~~
- (6) Participate as appropriate and as resources permit to help support tribal public health systems to prepare for and maintain accreditation if assistance is requested from any tribe; and

(7) Serve, pursuant to Title 7, section 2444, subsection 1, in an advisory capacity on public health matters related to retail marijuana to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry as chief administrative officer of the state licensing authority for the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, testing and sale of retail marijuana and any of that commissioner's officers and employees.

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall provide staff support to the Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health as resources permit. Other agencies of State Government as necessary and appropriate shall provide additional staff support or assistance to the Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health as resources permit.

SUMMARY

This bill directs the Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health to serve in an advisory capacity on public health matters related to retail marijuana to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry acting as chief administrative officer of the state licensing authority for the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, testing and sale of retail marijuana.