



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition To

LD 555, An Act to Increase the Number of Mature Plants Allowed for the Home Cultivation of Cannabis

March 3, 2023

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 555 on behalf of Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). For reference, the LPC provides direction to the advocacy team at MMA and establishes the position on bills of municipal interest.

Current law allows for the cultivation of three mature cannabis plants for personal use. Likewise, individuals over the age of 21 are allowed to possess up to 2.5 ounces of processed cannabis flower. According to leafly.com, the estimated production for a healthy, mature plant grown indoors is a ¼ pound or 4 ounces of cannabis flower, and the estimated production for a healthy, mature plant grown outdoors, is doubled at a ½ pound or 8 ounces. The website stresses that these are merely estimates and that, especially when grown outdoors without space restrictions, have the potential to produce much more flower.

Home cultivation presents additional challenges for municipalities with respect to odor in more densely populated areas and the related impacts to neighborhoods. Increasing the mature plant limit to 6 plants per individual over the age of 21 would exacerbate these challenges, particularly when you have multiple individuals in the same household growing the maximum number of plants.

Given that current law allows for home cultivation, the fact that three mature plants would produce an amount of cannabis that exceeds the allowable possession limits, and due to the increased challenges pertaining to odor and neighborhood impact, the LPC strongly urges the committee to vote ought not to pass on LD 555.

Thank you for your time and for considering the municipal perspective on this issue.