

Richard Morin
Turner
LD 40

Hello. My name is Richard Morin, and I am in support of LD 40, a piece of legislation that holds the key to transforming Maine's cannabis industry into a fair, progressive, and thriving sector.

Firstly, LD 40 addresses a glaring issue – the requirement for cannabis employees to carry identification cards. This practice is not only absurd but also unprecedented in other industries. It raises questions around necessity and fairness. The legislation's move to eliminate this requirement is a step towards treating cannabis workers with the same respect and rights as those in other fields.

Moreover, the bill takes a hard look at the annual fingerprinting requirement, an unnecessary and burdensome practice. Why subject cannabis industry workers to this when other professions don't? LD 40 aims to remove this administrative burden, promoting a more efficient and equitable working environment.

The legislation also delves into the issue of vague and ambiguous language in current statutes. LD 40 seeks to provide clarity, ensuring that regulations are not subject to interpretation by individual inspectors. This move is crucial for a well-functioning industry, allowing businesses to operate with confidence and certainty.

Fines in the cannabis industry have long been a point of contention. Fines as high as \$100,000 are absurd when compared to other, similarly regulated industries, like tobacco and alcohol. LD 40 recognizes the need to bring these fines in line with industry standards, reducing the financial burden on businesses striving to contribute to Maine's economy.

Additionally, the bill addresses the power imbalance between the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) and the businesses it oversees. LD 40 suggests that all rulemaking by OCP should go through the legislature, ensuring a fair and transparent process that aligns with the will of the people.

LD 40 is not just another piece of legislation; in many ways it is the last hope to bring fairness to the cannabis industry in Maine. I urge each member of this committee to support LD 40, as it represents a commitment to fostering a robust, inclusive, and progressive cannabis industry in our great state. Thank you for your time and consideration.