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Warren

LD 1620

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Testimony in Support of An Act to Amend Testing Standards for Adult Use Cannabis and Cannabis Products

Senator Hickman], Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.

My name is Arleigh Kraus], and I am testifying in support of this bill to amend the laws regulating the testing of adult use cannabis and cannabis products in Maine. This legislation represents a critical step forward in establishing a science-based, transparent, and more efficient regulatory framework for cannabis testing. As the adult use cannabis market matures, it is essential that our rules keep pace with both industry best practices and public health standards. This bill achieves that balance in several key ways.

First, it appropriately sets a testing limit for total yeast and mold contamination at 100,000 colony-forming units per gram. This threshold reflects a reasonable, evidence-based approach that aligns with national industry standards. At the same time, it maintains rigorous testing for harmful microbial contaminants such as E. coli, salmonella, and coliform bacteria—preserving public health protections without imposing arbitrary burdens.

Second, the bill creates an incentive-based audit testing program for licensees who demonstrate consistent compliance. This process will reduce unnecessary delays and costs for businesses that have proven they can meet health and safety standards across multiple batches. By shifting to an audit-based model for reliable operators, the state can both maintain product safety and support the growth of a sustainable, responsible industry.

Third, it significantly improves transparency and accountability by requiring all testing results—pass or fail—to be reported to the Office of Cannabis Policy and made available to the public in an anonymized format. This fosters trust in the system by giving consumers and stakeholders a clear view into the integrity of product testing while protecting the privacy of individual businesses.

In summary, this bill promotes a smarter, more transparent, and more equitable regulatory environment for cannabis in Maine. It ensures that health and safety remain paramount, while supporting compliant businesses and empowering consumers with better information. I urge the committee to vote “ought to pass” on this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Arleigh Kraus