

Jared Rolfe  
Bridgton  
LD 1840

LD 1840: Ought to Pass

LD 1840 protects medical cannabis caregivers from unfair regulatory overreach by the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP), ensuring they can operate clearly and confidently within existing rules. This bill is critical to safeguard caregivers' livelihoods and maintain patient access to safe, high-quality medical cannabis.

LD 1840 authorizes caregivers to conduct business at cannabis events, like festivals, stopping OCP from imposing non-statutory rules through threats of fines or license revocation.

Events enhance safe access for in and out-of-state patients by offering regulated purchasing options and generate significant tax revenue from cannabis and tourism. Maine's high-quality cannabis is gaining global recognition, and LD 1840 could boost the state's tourism appeal.

Maine's medical cannabis program currently has inventory tracking adaptable for events. Caregivers can use trip tickets to move inventory, track sale logs, and trip ticket returning inventory, ensuring full traceability in audits.

OCP has redefined "caregiver retail store"—a legal storefront for medical cannabis sales—to shut down compliant caregivers, often requiring costly upgrades or third-party approvals. LD 1840 clarifies this definition, preventing OCP's manipulative enforcement and preserving caregiver businesses.

OCP's public posting of caregivers' names and addresses violates privacy and risks safety, unlike other industries where such data is protected. LD 1840 limits access to requests only, aligning with standard practices. Public postings solve no problem and seem retaliatory.

OCP's new compliance forms, introduced without notice, force long-compliant caregivers out of compliance by requiring complex third-party signatures, violating grandfather clauses. For example, a caregiver since 2010 could face closure over a sudden town signature requirement that has never been required. LD 1840 ensures fair, transparent forms, protecting established operators.

LD 1840 supports caregivers and patients by curbing OCP overreach, enabling safe events, and safeguarding privacy. I urge the committee to pass this bill to strengthen Maine's medical cannabis program in the right ways.