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5/5/2025

Senator Hickman, Chair
Representative Supica, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1820 – *An Act to Simplify Regulation of the Adult Use Cannabis Industry*

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information in opposition to LD 1820, *An Act to Simplify Regulation of the Adult Use Cannabis Industry*.

LD 1820 proposes several changes to the laws governing personal adult use of cannabis including eliminating the individual identification card requirement for licensees, eliminating cannabis purchase limits, eliminating certain requirements regarding the inspection of licensed premises and eliminating certain cannabis and cannabis product labeling requirements. This bill repeals the requirement for a cannabis store, cultivation facility or products manufacturing facility to video record all transactions conducted through a delivery service and allows delivery transactions to be recorded through the adult use cannabis tracking system. It proposes to repeal language that prohibits manufacturing facilities from using ingredients derived from hemp in the manufacture of cannabis products.

Public health protections are strongest when focused on the regulation of availability and access, advertising and marketing, product potency, and packaging and labeling. Maine's adult use cannabis regulatory framework was created with several strong public health protections. Over the last several years, there have been efforts to prioritize economic gain over public health and regulatory protections. LD 1820, as drafted, continues down this path and proposes to remove multiple public health and safety protections that currently exist in statute.

Maine CDC has identified several changes proposed in LD 1820 that could have negative impacts on public health. Purchase quantity limits and limits on the number of samples that can be provided to one person in a 24-hour period, which was statutory language added in the 131st Legislature (PL 2023 c. 679) are important tools that seek to reduce overconsumption and access for youth. The recording of delivery transactions provides for the monitoring of off-site sales and ensuring restricted access by minors. Health warnings communicate risk and with limited space on packaging, should be a priority. This bill allows for adult use cannabis products to use statements from medical cannabis patients on how their medical use cannabis has provided palliative effects, further blurring the lines between adult use and medical use cannabis programs

and leading to potentially contradictory information. This bill also proposes removing the prohibition on manufacturing hemp products in the same facility as adult use products. Hemp products are not required to be tested or tracked in the same manner as adult use cannabis, and Maine is still deliberating the best way to regulate and ensure the safety of hemp-derived products like those containing Delta-8 THC. With this in mind, CDC does not recommend this change at this time.

Maine must maintain the public health protections currently in place. LD 1820 proposes a variety of changes that would blur lines between programs and proposes changes to many pieces within the adult use program that were just considered in the most recent legislative session and removed after much negotiation. Maine continues to have an opportunity to strengthen health and safety protections in its cannabis programs, learning from decades of research on the impact of harmful practices established within both the tobacco and alcohol industries nationwide. Because LD 1820 weakens essential regulations within the adult use cannabis program, Maine CDC respectfully asks the Committee to vote ought not to pass.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during your deliberation of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Va.", is positioned above the typed name.

Puthiery Va, DO

Director

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Maine Department of Health and Human Services