



Teresa S. Pierce
Senator, District 25

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony in Support of LD 48, "An Act to Clarify the Requirements for Off-premises Sales by Cannabis Store Licensees"
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
January 30, 2023

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, I am Senator Teresa Pierce, and I represent senate district 25 which includes Falmouth, Cumberland, North Yarmouth, part of Yarmouth, Gray and Long Island. I am pleased to present LD 48, "An Act to Clarify the Requirements for Off-premises Sales by Cannabis Store Licensees". This is a bill brought to me by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, and I'm happy to sponsor it here today.

The bill seeks to amend the Cannabis Legalization Act in a few important ways that will further strengthen safety standards for Maine cannabis growers and implement additional safeguards to ensure that minors are not enticed to use these products.

First, it repeals the prohibition against a label or packaging that depicts a human, animal or fruit and replaces it with a prohibition on the use of cartoons on a product label. "Cartoon", as defined in this bill, will cover any drawn or exaggerated depictions of people, animals or fruit.

There has been a fair amount of confusion about how to interpret the human, animal, and fruit prohibition – specifically around body parts of humans and animals, paw prints, outlines vs. full illustrations, and the like. In addition, we have a number of edible cannabis products that are fruit-flavored and licensees have wanted to use realistic depictions of the fruit on the product label. By defining and prohibiting the use of "cartoons" we will be able to better protect children and by allowing licensees to have realistic depictions options it will give stronger guidance to the industry. This is a more objective and focused standard to achieve the same ends.

Second, last session when the legislature was considering LD 1846 (PL 2021, ch. 558), OCP recommended that the 0.6 mg to 5 mg language in question be stricken as it conflicted with the across the board 10% potency variance authorized by that bill, but the language remained and has proven confusing to licensees and more limiting than OCP believes the committee intended to be when it authorized an allowable variance of 10%. This bill strikes that confusing language.



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Third, the remaining testing provisions are aimed at clarifying in law what tests are intended to be conducted on which cannabis items while eliminating redundant testing that does not improve public health and safety.

I have briefly highlighted the components of this bill and will be happy to answer any questions. That being said, this bill is technical in nature, and the committee might be better served by addressing questions to the department.

Sincerely,

Teresa S. Pierce
State Senator, District 25
*Serving the people of Falmouth, Cumberland, North
Yarmouth, Yarmouth (majority), Gray, and Long Island*