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**LD 555**

**(HP360)**

*An Act to Increase the Number of Mature  
Plants Allowed for the Home Cultivation of  
Cannabis*

**I, and 34 medical patients are in SUPPORT of LD 555 with hope of some  
clarifications**

Good after Chair Senator Hickmann, and Chair Representative Supica, and  
other respected members of the VLA board,

My name is Derek Shirley, I live in Gray Maine, I am a medical cannabis patient  
today here representing 34 medical patients! We support LD 555 with some  
clarifications but overall we would like to thank Rep. Boyer for this bill!

While we are absolutely for all and any mature plant count increases medical  
or personal use. But let's think about this for a second: we all know that the  
ORIGINAL number for mature plant count was 6 when it was originally written  
back in 2016. Instead, it got hacked to 3 at the last minute. Here we are in  
2023 now "fixing it". How many times do we have to come back and "fix" a  
plant count? It's a plant. At what point does "plant count" become outdated  
and arbitrary? Instead of settling with what we thought was good in 2016 let's  
be a nationwide home cultivation state standard leader. Let's free this plant!

EVEN if your WORST fear happens; a minor getting into a mature cannabis  
plant for example, what would happen? You can't even smoke a mature  
cannabis plant until it's been dried for 7-14ish days in a pretty climate  
controlled environment. And the wrong drying environment/general handling  
can affect harvest cannabis THC percentage drastically. Also, let's say a minor  
eats the mature cannabis plant raw for whatever reason. Would the child get  
high? Short answer No. (Links/Articles provided at bottom) Let's free this darn  
plant already! Even at the mature stages, the plant isn't hurting anyone..

If LD 555 passes as written, We ask then it's only ethical and morally correct  
to adjust the medical patient plant count. We think medical cannabis plants  
that patients grow, harvest and use for their own medicine use could/should

fall under the “Maine Food Sovereignty Law.” or maybe a bill/law similar to needs created. Currently, Food and Food Products is defined:

"Food or food products" means food or food products that are grown, produced, processed or prepared for human consumption, **including, but not limited to**, vegetables, fruit, milk or milk products, meat or meat products, poultry or poultry products, fish or fish products, seafood or seafood products, cider or juice, acidified foods or canned fruits or vegetables.

Though we agree cannabis is not food per say, a large portion of medical patients consume/grow cannabis everyday like food for their (or to aid) nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being. If Mainers have a right to their own food, why not their own medicine?

If the Committee finds that “Maine Food Sovereignty Law” does not protect medical cannabis, CBD or hemp we ask that LD 555 possibly looks into increasing plant count for medical patients as a possible amendment. You might ask? What's the “right” number? My answer will be to free the plant! But whatever the “increase” is, medical patients should have a higher plant count than an average resident at the end of the day regardless of what is! We shouldn't settle for 6 mature plants as we thought in 2016. Let's set standards and end stigmas!

Thanks everyone for your time!

I'm a person not a party,

**Derek J Shirley**

### **Patients/Residents:**

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26. Hippa, Hippa, Sanford, ME,
27. Hippa, Hippa, Auburn, ME,
28. Hippa, Hippa, York, ME
29. Hippa, Hippa, Waterboro, ME,
30. Hippa, Hippa, Wells, Me,
31. Hippa, Hippa. Poland, ME
32. Hippa, Hippa, New Gloucester, ME
33. Hippa, Hippa, Portland, ME
34. Hippa, Hippa, Casco, ME

**Resources:**

1. "Eating Raw Weed: Can it Get You High?"  
<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/can-you-get-high-from-eating-raw-weed#:~:text=Share%20on%20Pinterest%20Eating%20raw,high%20concentrations%20in%20raw%20weed.>
2. "Can You Get High from Eating Raw Weed?"-  
<https://hightimes.com/edibles/get-high-eating-raw-weed/>