



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative David Boyer

**Presenting L.D. ¹³¹¹~~836~~, An Act to Provide That the Legal Use or Possession of
Cannabis Is Not a Violation of Probation, Parole or Pretrial Release**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and distinguished members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Representative David Boyer and I am presenting L.D. 836 An Act to Provide That the Legal Use or Possession of Cannabis Is Not a Violation of Probation, Parole or Pretrial Release.

As you know, cannabis has been legal in Maine since the passage of a 2016 citizen's initiative that sought to regulate cannabis like alcohol.

Title 17-A, Part 6, Chapter 67 Section 1807 Conditions of probation, allows the court in its sentence to attach specific conditions to probation. One condition authorized for the court to impose is "Section I. Refrain from drug use and use or excessive use of alcohol;"

District 87 Mechanic Falls and Poland (part)

The bill before you would prohibit an individual's legal use, possession, and cultivation of cannabis from being a violation of probation, parole or pre-trial release, so long as the court doesn't find that allowing it would create a risk of danger to the individual or others.

Our law and our courts should view alcohol and adult-use cannabis in the same manner; legal, age-restricted substances.

By prohibiting folks from consuming cannabis but not alcohol, we are encouraging people to use the more dangerous substance. Cannabis is objectively safer than alcohol, it is less toxic and less addictive.

Additionally, many Mainers use medical cannabis as a means of harm reduction, substituting cannabis for illegal, deadly substances and the current policy could jeopardize this.

I appreciate the committee's consideration and thank you for your attention today.