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Testimony of Rep. David Boyer introducing

LD 1567, An Act to Require Labeling of Radiation Treatment and Ozonation of Adult Use Cannabis and Inspection and Registration of Associated Equipment

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

May 5, 2025

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and esteemed colleagues of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is David Boyer, and I am honored to introduce LD 1567, An Act to Require Labeling of Radiation Treatment and Ozonation of Adult-Use Cannabis and Inspection and Registration of Associated Equipment.

Transparency is one thing our committee knows a thing or two about. Whether it's about how we conduct our elections, fund our campaigns, or engage with our elected officials—we understand how important transparency is to the people of Maine.

In the spirit of transparency, this bill seeks to require a label on cannabis products if they have been treated with radiation or ozonation. This process is used to ensure these products pass testing. With Maine's low limit for total yeast and mold of 10,000 colony-forming units (CFUs), many adult-use operators are forced to use these machines.

I want to emphasize: this is not about vilifying operators. These businesses face a brutal marketplace—crippling taxes, complex regulations, and competition from an illicit market. But consumers deserve to know if these treatments have been applied.

Radiation treatment, or irradiation, isn't new—it's been FDA-approved for food since 1963 and is widely used today. But its application to cannabis is less studied. One study found that irradiation can reduce terpenes and cannabinoids—the compounds that give cannabis its aroma, flavor, and therapeutic effects. What does this mean for consumers? It could alter the product's quality or potency. While more research is needed, this potential change is exactly why labeling matters: it lets buyers decide what's right for them.

This bill would also direct the Office of Cannabis Policy, in conjunction with the Division of Environmental and Community Health, to inspect these machines before

operation. Additionally, it would direct them to develop guidance for the operation of these machines, including worker and product safety.

When calibrated and used correctly, these machines are safe and effective. But misuse or poor maintenance could risk product quality or operator safety. Inspection and guidance ensure these tools help—rather than harm—the industry.

At the end of the day, this is about choice and whether the consumer has the right to know if their product has been irradiated.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.