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Testimony of Rep. David Boyer introducing
**LD 1620, An Act to Amend the Laws Regulating the Testing of Adult-Use
Cannabis and Adult-Use Cannabis Products**
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 David Boyer, and I am proud to introduce LD 1620, An Act to Amend the Laws Regulating the Testing of Adult-Use Cannabis and Adult-Use Cannabis Products. This bill seeks to reform Maine's testing regime in a manner that would save adult-use operators thousands of dollars while still safeguarding public health and safety.

Section 1 of LD 1620 raises the total yeast and mold limit from 10,000 colony-forming units (CFU) per gram to a more practical 100,000 CFU/g. Other states- Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, Maryland-have already embraced this higher standard, striking a balance between safety and economic viability. In 2022, Connecticut raised the limit from 10,000 to 100,000 CFU/g. New York has taken a smarter path, ditching strict pass/fail limits for transparent label requirements that empower consumers with test results. Additionally, section 1 calls for speciated testing, which delineates between helpful microbials and harmful microbials such as E. coli and salmonella.

These are important changes that will dramatically increase the viability of growing adult-use cannabis outdoors. Currently, there are very few adult-use growers because of this limit. If we can't trust cannabis grown in Maine's fresh air and sunshine, what does that say about our entire agricultural system?

Next, Section 2 establishes audit testing. To be eligible to transition to audit testing, an adult-use operator must pass 10 consecutive and separate mandatory tests, proves their reliability, and then, with Office of Cannabis Policy y (OCP) approval, shift to audit testing. They would be exempt from pre-sale testing-but the same rigorous standards apply. If an audit fails, they're back to square one with mandatory testing. This is simple, fair, and effective.

This reform is desperately needed. The current system is a maze of redundancy and expense. New guidance from the OCP requires cultivators to test pre-rolled joints after already testing the flower inside them. This isn't safety it's overregulation. Operators are hemorrhaging thousands of dollars on pointless double-testing. LD 1620 cuts this red tape and rewards compliance.

Finally, Section 3 tackles a trust gap with a public database for adult-use cannabis test results-anonymous yet uniquely traceable. Right now, the OCP claims it can't share this data, leaving operators and consumers in the dark. Distrust festers in our testing market: labs, competing for business, deliver wildly inconsistent results. Operators have sent identical samples to three labs and gotten three different outcomes-sometimes not even close. If the state mandates testing, it must ensure accountability. Other states have built similar systems, proving they foster trust and protect consumers. Maine deserves the same.

These changes will help our struggling adult-use cannabis market. LD 1620 is a necessary step to ensure the survival and growth of Maine's cannabis industry. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.