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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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LD 1320, "An Act to Prevent Illicit Cultivation and Trafficking Within
Maine's Regulated Cannabis Industry"
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
May 8, 2025

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

My name is Jeff Timberlake and I represent Senate District 17. I am before you today to introduce LD 1320, "An Act to Prevent Illicit Cultivation and Trafficking Within Maine's Regulated Cannabis Industry."

This bill is about protecting the integrity of Maine's legal cannabis industry, something that so many people have worked hard to build. Since legalization, we've seen Maine create a strong framework that supports small businesses, generates tax revenue, and keeps products safer for consumers; but that only works if everyone plays by the same rules.

Right now, there's a gap in the system. Someone could be convicted of running an illegal grow or selling cannabis outside the law and then just months later apply for a license to operate legally. That sends the wrong message, not just to law-abiding businesses but to the public as well.

LD 1320 simply says that if you've been convicted of illegally growing or selling cannabis within the last three years, you can't get a license for the next three years. That's not harsh. Three years isn't forever. It's a chance for someone to show they're ready to follow the rules and be part of the legal market the right way. It's a fair balance between second chances and accountability.

This bill isn't about locking people out of the industry. It's about making sure those who are part of it now are serious about doing things the right way. Honest businesses that follow the rules shouldn't have to compete with people who haven't and the public deserves to know that the legal cannabis system is being run by trustworthy operators.

LD 1320 helps us tighten up our oversight without being overly punitive. It protects what we've built while still allowing people to move forward once they've demonstrated a commitment to the law.

I urge you to support this bill. Thank you again for your time, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

*Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee * Government Oversight Committee
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