



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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27 Apr 25

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: LD 1608, An Act to Counter Unlawful Cannabis Cultivation

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

1. Thank you for allowing me to bring forth my bill, An Act to Counter Unlawful Cannabis Cultivation.
2. As many of you know, the operation of unlicensed illicit marijuana cultivation sites in this state is a known and growing problem.
3. These sites, most often operated by members of international organized crime syndicates, threaten those legal operators that follow the laws and regulations set forth by the State's Office of Cannabis Policy. Such unlicensed operators introduce unsafe products into the marketplace, tainted by dangerous fungicides and other chemicals that pollute the sites and cause a public safety hazard. Such sites are also often manned by people in slave labor like conditions. Additionally, by bypassing the State's regulatory framework they are denying the state in licensing fees and taxes.
4. The Department of Homeland Security estimates that as of 2023 there are at least 270 sites that have been identified within the state. However, even when a site is identified by law enforcement and interdicted, it is not necessarily shutdown. OCP has even issued licenses to sites that have been previously raided.
5. As these sites are often operated by underlings in an organized crime unit, even after being raided

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they just re-open with another person in the same criminal organization as the new operator.

6. LD 1608 addresses this single issue of illicit sites continuing to operate as one tool in the toolbox to fight illicit grow sites and the organized crime entities behind them.

7. Simply put, if any cultivation site is found to have repeated violations under Title 28-B, it would give DAFS/OCP the ability to place a moratorium on the specific geographic location where the site is located for a period of up to 10 years. If such a moratorium is enacted, OCP would not be able to issue registration certificate to any entity for that location.

8. It is the intent that site owners/landlords who rely on the property rental income would ensure that cultivation operations at that site were not illicit and that illicit operators would not be able to resume operation of a site that has been shutdown simply by putting a new “front man” as the face of the operation.

9. I encourage the committee to consider this legislation and support it with a vote of ‘Ought To Pass’. I thank you for your time and will gladly answer any questions to my ability.

Respectfully,



Rep. Chad R. Perkins
District 31

ATT:

CF:

Committee Chair Senator Hickman
Committee Chair Representative Supica
Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee Members

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