



MAINE CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

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Statement in Opposition to LD 1582, An Act To Enact the Maine Psilocybin Services Act

February 3, 2022

Maine Chiefs of Police Association takes no position on the clinical and therapeutic benefits of psilocybin, although we take note of the testimony submitted by an addiction psychiatrist who raised questions about the adequacy of the current state of investigation into the safety and efficacy of psilocybin.

We oppose enactment of this bill and the way it proposes to regulate (and not regulate) this substance, for the following reasons.

The proponents argue for the bill largely on clinical or therapeutic grounds, citing benefits for treating depression and other clinical conditions. The bill requires publication of information relating to the safety and efficacy of psilocybin in treating mental health conditions. But *the bill is in actuality a proposal to introduce recreational psilocybin drug use* in Maine by:

- prohibiting the requirement for a medical diagnosis or even certification by a clinician in order to possess psilocybin;
- prohibiting any limits on the medical conditions for which psilocybin can be used, and
- requiring that psilocybin facilitators have merely a high school education, specifically prohibiting a rule requiring they possess any sort of degree from an institution of higher education.

The bill pre-empts municipal action unless such action is taken swiftly, before the law takes effect and an entrepreneur decides to set up shop in a municipality. This opt-out requirement is just the opposite of how municipal authority is treated with respect to recreational marijuana.

We oppose L.D. 1582. If you choose to proceed in any manner, we urge you to adopt the recommendation by Rep. Patty Hymanson to establish a task force to evaluate the possible legalization of psilocybin, including its medical safety and efficacy, and an appropriate regulatory framework.