



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF MARIJUANA POLICY
162 STATE HOUSE STATION
19 UNION ST.
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0162

ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCE

KIRSTEN LC FIGUEROA
COMMISSIONER

OFFICE OF MARIJUANA POLICY

ERIK GUNDERSEN
DIRECTOR

March 29, 2021

Re: LD 1029, *An Act to Amend the Marijuana Legalization Act and the Laws Governing the Taxation of Marijuana (Emergency)*

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

I am Erik Gundersen, Director of the Office of Marijuana Policy (OMP) and I am before you today to provide testimony on behalf of our office in support of LD 1029, An Act to Amend the Marijuana Legalization Act and the Laws Governing the Taxation of Marijuana, a department bill drafted by our office.

LD 1029 would permit the transfer of marijuana flower and trim, in addition to marijuana plants and seeds, from medical program registrants to adult use cultivators for a limited period of time. This bill is similar to proposals this committee heard last session which had broad-based support that were not enacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

OMP is bringing this bill forward to revisit the discussions had by stakeholders, our office and the legislature last session, when this change was proposed right before the launch of our adult use industry. At that time, there were concerns that the budding adult use program may not have enough marijuana flower and trim available to support the manufacturing and retail needs of the much-anticipated market. However, since then, the adult use market has launched and we continue to issue licenses to new adult use cultivation facilities that are supplying our other licensees. Many of the supply issues have been resolved.

However, we since there was broad support for this proposal, we wanted to bring it back. And knowing that many retailers are positioned to join the adult use program before summer, the influx of flower and trim may provide benefits.

We thank the committee for its careful consideration of this bill and we are happy to answer any questions you may have for us.