



# Auburn Police Department

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The Maine Office of Marijuana Policy website states, “The Maine Medical Use Marijuana Program exists to ensure and facilitate an efficient, responsible and legal marijuana environment within the State of Maine.” The proposed rule changes add legitimacy and accountability to the Medical Marijuana program by preventing diversion into the black market. The proposed rule changes also allow municipalities the confidence that marijuana businesses are properly regulated.

The benefits of the proposed rules changes, to municipalities, are numerous:

1. The required local authorization form would provide early notice that an individual(s) intends to operate a marijuana business within the boundaries of that municipality. It also gives municipalities a chance to investigate the background of the proposed business operator(s).
2. Increased security measures. Although the City of Auburn already requires additional security measures via municipal ordinance, the proposed rule changes would require additional security for businesses located in municipalities that do not have ordinance regulations. Added security will help prevent theft and help identify perpetrators should a crime be committed.
3. Perhaps the most important change is the implementation of inventory tracking. This is already used in the adult use program and is a vital tool in the reduction of illicit operations requiring investigation by law enforcement and moving product onto the black market. Currently there is no inventory tracking in the medical program.

I believe the City of Auburn should lobby in opposition of LD1242 and LD1319 which seek to stop the proposed rules.

LD 1242: would require any new rules developed by the Office of Marijuana Policy to be reviewed by the legislature before going into effect. This would take a considerable amount of time and prevent timely rule changes should significant errors be noted, or loopholes develop. The OMP was developed and implemented to regulate the marijuana industry and should be trusted to enact rules that benefit the State of Maine marijuana program.

LD1319: prevents OMP from adopting the newly proposed rules until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

Municipalities rely on OMP for guidance and support. We look to them for regulation and a solid set of rules to base our ordinances upon. Putting off the proposed rule changes would give that much more time for the possibility of criminal activities to push product onto the black market.

I would like to point out that the City of Auburn and the Office of Marijuana Policy work together to ensure the citizens of Auburn have confidence in the regulation of marijuana business within our boundaries. The proposed rules add legitimacy and accountability and should be enacted as quickly as possible.

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