

Leo Paquette  
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LD 948

Senator Hickman and Esteemed Members of the VLA Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 948, an Act to Reduce Administrative Burdens for Adult Use and Medical Cannabis. This bill is an important step toward streamlining the cannabis licensing process and improving the operational efficiency of businesses within the cannabis industry.

The provisions within this bill, particularly extending licensing renewals to every two years and expanding the canopy size to 1000 square feet, will significantly reduce unnecessary administrative burdens while promoting business growth. Below, I outline why these changes are vital for the future of cannabis in our state:

1. Extending Licensing Renewals to Every Two Years.

The current one-year renewal cycle places undue strain on businesses, particularly smaller operators who often struggle to maintain compliance with the frequent reporting requirements. By extending the renewal period to two years, the state will:

- Reduce administrative overhead: Both businesses and regulators will spend less time and resources on the constant renewal process, allowing more focus on safety, compliance, and growth.
- Support small businesses: Smaller cannabis operations, which may have limited resources, will find this change particularly beneficial as it will reduce operating costs and free up time for other critical business functions.
- Increase regulatory efficiency: The state's regulatory bodies will be able to allocate resources to higher-priority areas, such as enforcement and ensuring public safety, rather than repeatedly processing license renewals.

2. Expanding Canopy Size to 1000 Square Feet.

Increasing the cultivation canopy size to 1000 square feet is a practical and thoughtful adjustment that will help cannabis growers thrive. By expanding the canopy size, the bill will:

- Enable more productive cultivation: With a larger space to grow, producers will be able to cultivate more product, which is critical to meeting market demand and ensuring supply stability.
- Promote business scalability: Many operators, particularly in the medical cannabis space, are limited by the current canopy size restrictions. Increasing the space allows businesses to expand operations while still maintaining control over product quality.
- Foster economic growth: Larger cultivation spaces will help create more jobs and economic opportunities within the cannabis industry, benefiting both business owners and the broader community.

In conclusion, LD 948 is a much-needed piece of legislation that will reduce administrative burdens on cannabis businesses, improve the state's cannabis industry efficiency, and foster economic growth. I urge you to support this bill, as it will provide a more equitable, sustainable, and business-friendly environment for cannabis operators.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Leo Paquette  
Firefly Organics