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LD 1620

LD 1620: Ought to Pass

LD 1620 adjusts microbial testing thresholds for cannabis to reflect realistic environmental conditions and eliminates burdensome requirements for public test result postings, protecting caregivers and ensuring fair regulation.

Adjusting microbial testing thresholds aligns with environmental realities. Outdoor air quality typically ranges from 1,000–10,000 CFU/m³, with peaks up to 41,300 CFU/m³ reported for *Penicillium/Aspergillus*. As demonstrated in Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) office testing, where outdoor air showed some of the highest mold levels recorded. High natural mold levels are natural in outdoor environments, making current strict thresholds unrealistic and misaligned with actual safety risks.

These unrealistic thresholds impose excessive testing burdens on caregivers. Caregivers face costly compliance requirements that risk small business closures, as frequent testing drives up operational expenses without improving product safety. LD 1620 reduces these burdens, ensuring caregivers can maintain compliance without financial strain.

Requiring all test results to be posted online imposes excessive burdens. Test results should be maintained by cannabis businesses, labs, and the OCP, available upon request. Creating an online public portal for all results will impose significant costs on the OCP and the state, which has admitted its limited capacity to manage complex systems. Public portals also risk exposing proprietary business data, undermining caregiver privacy.

LD 1620 supports caregivers by aligning testing with environmental realities and protecting business privacy. I urge the committee to pass this bill to ensure practical, fair regulation for Maine's cannabis industry.