

WE WILL BEGIN SHORTLY



# MEDICAL CANNABIS AMENDMENT ACT OF 2021 INFORMATION SESSION

April 6, 2021



# PRESENTER



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# AGENDA



1. Agency Overview
2. Introduced Cannabis Legislation, Rulemaking
3. Key Provisions of the  
*Medical Cannabis Amendment Act of 2021*
4. Q&A

# AGENCY OVERVIEW





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- The **Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA)** is an independent agency within DC Government charged with supporting the public's health, safety and welfare through the control and regulation of the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages and medical cannabis.
- ABRA operates under the authority of the **Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board**, made up of seven (7) DC residents nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the DC Council. **Donovan Anderson** is the current ABC Board Chairperson.

# CANNABIS LEGISLATION, RULEMAKINGS



# CANNABIS LEGISLATION, RULEMAKING



- Three (3) cannabis bills have been introduced in 2021:
  - ***Medical Cannabis Amendment Act of 2021***—Introduced by Mayor Muriel Bowser
    - **Note | This information session will focus exclusively on this bill.**
  - ***Safe Cannabis Sales Act of 2021***—Introduced by Mayor Muriel Bowser
  - ***Comprehensive Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Act of 2021***—Introduced by Chairperson Phil Mendelson and other Councilmembers
- To date, no hearing dates have been scheduled on any of these three bills.
- Additionally, the ABC Board has adopted emergency rulemaking amending subtitle C of Title 22.
  - A public hearing concerning the Medical Cannabis Notice of Emergency and Proposed Rulemaking is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28 at 1:30 p.m.



# MEDICAL CANNABIS AMENDMENT ACT OF 2021 OVERVIEW



# BILL OVERVIEW

- Introduced by Mayor Muriel Bowser, the ***Medical Cannabis Amendment Act of 2021*** aims to make the District's medical cannabis program more equitable, inclusive and fair; provide patients and caregivers greater flexibility and options; and ensure facilities can meet patient demand and product preferences.

# KEY PROVISIONS

## **Reduces Barriers for Entry**

- Limits the felony prohibition to becoming an officer, owner, or agent of a facility to crimes of violence, a gun offense, or for tax evasion, fraud, or credit card fraud.
- Reduces the prohibition time preventing persons with non-eligible felony convictions from becoming an officer, owner, or agent of a facility to three (3) years.
- Allows all returning citizens to be eligible to work at a medical cannabis facility.
- Allows preference points to be awarded to returning citizens or DC residents arrested or convicted for a cannabis offense or to a veteran-owned business enterprise applying for a medical cannabis facility registration.

# KEY PROVISIONS

## **Expands Patient Access**

- Allows patients to purchase medical cannabis from any registered dispensary in DC.
- Allows dispensaries to offer delivery and curbside pick-up on a permanent basis with the proper endorsement.
- Increases the number of permitted dispensaries from eight (8) to 16, two (2) per Ward.

## **Increases the Availability of Medical Cannabis and Testing to Meet Patient Demand**

- Eliminates on a permanent basis the cap on the number of cannabis plants a cultivation center can grow.
- Stops the number of testing laboratories located within a ward from being counted towards the cap on the number of cultivation centers within the same ward.

# KEY PROVISIONS

## **Creates Safe Places and Educational Opportunities**

- Allows dispensaries to operate safe use treatment facilities.
- Allows dispensaries to offer educational tastings and demonstrations and/or classes with the proper endorsement.

## **Levels the Playing Field**

- Prohibits any cultivation center from charging a dispensary it has an ownership interest in a lower price than it charges other dispensaries.

## **Minimizes Administrative Burdens for Businesses**

- Increases registrations for medical cannabis facilities from one (1) to three (3) years.

# FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITIES



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- Feedback opportunities include:
  - Emailing **Councilmember McDuffie's Senior Legislative Counsel Ogochukwu Agwai** at [oagwai@dccouncil.us](mailto:oagwai@dccouncil.us).
  - Emailing ABRA at [abra.legal@dc.gov](mailto:abra.legal@dc.gov).
  - Registering to submit written or deliver public testimony once a committee hearing date is confirmed.
- The legislation can be tracked on the District's Legislative Information Management System (LIMS) at [dccouncil.us/legislation/](https://dccouncil.us/legislation/).

# Q&A

