WE WILL BEGIN SHORTLY



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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
 - \circ 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 veteranowned 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.

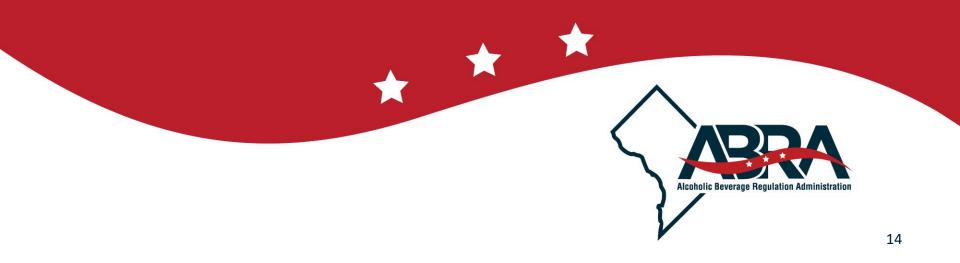
Levels the Playing Field

• 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.
 - Emailing ABRA at <u>abra.legal@dc.gov</u>.
 - 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 <u>dccouncil.us/legislation/</u>.

