



Montana Cannabis Guild 2024 EAIC Policy Memo

Chairman Josh Kassmier
Montana Economic Affairs Interim Committee
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Mr. Chairman,

The Montana Cannabis Guild has gathered comments from its membership on the financial and administrative burden that current cannabis policies present. Herein we present policy recommendations for possible inclusion in an EAIC legislative package for the 2025 Montana legislative session that we hope will help address current industry issues.

In the following recommendations the Guild would like to acknowledge the complexity of cannabis policy and the tremendous progress that has been made in terms of rules, regulations, and enforcement in Montana since medical marijuana was approved in 2004. We believe a well-regulated industry is a healthy industry, but also intimately understand the perils of over-regulation.

The following six policy recommendations represent the most pressing concerns of the Montana Cannabis Guild's membership:

- 1.) Create an industry led advisory committee for the CCD
- 2.) Red tape reduction for cannabis
- 3.) Define and reapply "unduly burdensome" litmus test for cannabis rules and regulations from the original wording of HB 701:

"Unduly burdensome" means requiring such a high investment of money, time, or any other resource or asset to achieve compliance that a reasonably prudent businessperson would not operate.

- 4.) Reforming mandatory and excessive fines and fees
- 5.) Extend operating hours for dispensaries from 7am-11pm
- 6.) Extend the current moratorium on new licenses for another 2 years

We want to stress that it is of grave concern to Montana's cannabis business owners that current regulatory and administrative burdens are not sustainable. Nor is the current rulemaking process (which largely excludes those business owners who these regulations most affect) sustainable or effective in producing effective cannabis policy.

Until Montana's cannabis industry has a seat at the table in the rulemaking process like every other industry in Montana does (through the use of an oversight board, commission or advisory committee), the process will remain broken and ineffective, inefficient and irrational cannabis policy will escape Montana's legislature and the Cannabis Control Division.

Thanks for this opportunity to help refine cannabis policy in Montana. We look forward to speaking to the committee soon on these matters.

Regards,

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Pepper

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