Medical Cannabis in Maryland

Looking Back and Looking Ahead
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William C. Tilburg, JD, MPH
Director, Policy and Government Affairs
What is the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission?

- Statutorily created body, made up of 16 subject matter experts from diverse backgrounds in agriculture, law, medicine, and research.
- Serve in part-time, voluntary capacity
- Serve 4-year, staggered terms
- Independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health
- Hold quarterly public meetings
MMCC’s Role

• **Regulate medical cannabis businesses and patients:**
  
  *Oversee all licensing, registration, inspection, and testing measures pertaining to Maryland’s medical cannabis program and provide relevant program information to patients, providers, caregivers, growers, processors, dispensaries and testing laboratories.*

• **Use, possession, and distribution of illicit cannabis remains under authority of state and local law enforcement**

• **State licensing boards remain authority for certifying providers**
  
  - MMCC prohibited from establishing continuing education or other requirements for certifying providers
The Players

Grower (22)

Processor (28)

Independent Testing Laboratory (5)

Dispensary (102)
The Program

State Population: 6.05 million

Patient Population: 64,000 (1%)

Providers: 1,300 (Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, Dentists, and Podiatrists)

Monthly Transactions: 230,000

Sales: $18,200,000 per month
Program History

2013 General Assembly establishes the MMMC to oversee academic medical centers growing and dispensing medical marijuana

2015 Marijuana is out, cannabis is in.
- MMCC may license growers, processors, dispensaries and ITLs
- MMCC accepts applications

2016 Dentists, podiatrists, nurse practitioners, and certified nurse midwives added to certifying providers
- Preapprovals announced for growers, processors, and dispensaries

2017 Dispensaries open and begin selling medical cannabis

2018 HB 2 passes, altering the makeup of the Commission and expanding the program

2019 New applications for growers and processors
- HB 17/SB 426 continue to alter the cannabis landscape
Looking Ahead
Priority Issues

Program Diversity
Regulations
  • Edibles
  • Advertising
  • Research

Collaboration with State and Local Partners
Racial Disparities in Cannabis Criminalization

- Nationally, African Americans are nearly 4x as likely to be arrested.
- The black/white arrest rate disparity has only grown since 2001.
- From 2001-2010 Maryland had the 4th highest arrest rate for marijuana possession – 409 per 100,000; nearly double the national average.
- Baltimore City had the 5th highest marijuana possession arrest rate at 1,136 per 100,000 residents.
- From 2015-2017, 96 percent of arrestees in Baltimore City were black.
- Arrests rose 15 percent between 2016 and 2017.

2013 ACLU Maryland Report
Baltimore, MD marijuana arrest data, 2011-2013

Dark Blue = majority African American district
Marijuana Business Owners and Founders by Race (National)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>5.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>2.4</td>
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Steps Taken in Maryland

- **January 2018** – Disparity Study Report Letter
- **April 2018** – Emergency legislation (HB 2) increases licenses and eliminates blanket prohibition on drug felons as owners/investors and employees
- **December 2018/March 2019** – Amend Regulations
- **January 11, 2019** – Revise Grower and Processor Applications
- **November 2018-February 2019** – MMCC-LBCM co-host 16 public outreach events
- **December 2018-March 2019** – MMCC Awards 5 grants to educational/business development organizations to assist small, minority, and women business owners and entrepreneurs
- **July 2019 (tentative)** – Third-Party vendor registration
Regulations
Regulations Overhaul

• April 26 – May 28 – 30-day public comment period for draft regulations on third-party transport, independent testing laboratories, penalties, patient ID cards, and more

• June 18 – Policy Committee meeting

• June 27 – Full Commission meeting

• August/September – Policy Committee meeting

• September 26 – Full Commission meeting

Topics include

• Edibles
• Academic Research
• Advertising
• Transfer of Ownership
• Role of Clinical Director
Collaboration
Areas for Collaboration

• Certifying Provider Education and Sanction
• Patient Education
• Legal Protections
• Use on School Grounds
• Regulatory Development
Any Questions?
E-mail:
William.tilburg@Maryland.gov

Note: The information presented here are for informational purposes only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice. You should contact your attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular issue or problem.