



House Committee Commerce and Gaming Presentation Key Talking Points
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Quality Assurance: Pesticides and Heavy Metals

You may or may not be aware that Washington state is the only state in which these tests are not required.

Lab Accreditation (HB 2052 - 2019)

This work needs to be completed no later than 2024 according to what is written in statute and we feel this is more than adequate time to establish this vital state oversight. With oversight and proper accreditation of labs a concerning element of the testing ecosystem that reduces patient and consumer trust in the regulated market can be addressed.

Traceability

This industry-lead effort is robust and in-progress, we would like to see an official compliance grace period of at least three months as our industry struggles through this significant operations adjustment.

Structure and Function (SB 5298 - 2019)

The Cannabis Alliance suggests using the phrase “medical grade cannabis” This language describes quality and not therapeutic effects, and we would like to urge the legislature to encourage the LCB to allow this verbiage on the package.

Cannabinoids

We would like to voice our full throated support for Delta 8 to be firmly under the regulatory authority of The Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board, however any additional action would be premature to understanding the public safety impact of any new rule and subsequent enforcement.

Homegrow (HB 1019 - 2020-21)

It is important to remember that Washington State is an outlier in denying this right to its citizens. There have not been adverse effects in other states as a result. The evidence indicates a similar outcome to the craft beer industry with the development of home brewing. When adults started to experiment with brewing beer at home the result was an elevation of the industry, diversification and higher quality product selection and increased consumer education which led to a more sophisticated consumer.

Arrest Protection (HB 1105 - 2020-21)

The Legislature should pass HB 1105, which indicates that if an authorized patient has contact with the police, and there is no evidence that the patient is breaking the law, then that patient cannot be arrested and their garden cannot be confiscated. HB 1105 would do nothing to protect those who are violating the law.

Excise Tax (SB 5004 - 2020-21)

Pass SB 5004 to create patient access to medical grade products. SB 5004 would create an excise tax exemption for medical-grade products for patients who are registered in the database. This one bill, with a very low fiscal impact, would serve to incentivize production of medical-grade products, and importantly, to bring the cost of those products in reach of those patients who feel comfortable registering.

Equity (HB 2870 - 2020)

The Cannabis Alliance stands firmly in support of the work being accomplished by the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force and we are impressed with the recommendations currently being discussed. We applaud the work of the Task Force and we look forward to supporting their recommendations.

Commission (new bill number forthcoming)

As we face these current and ongoing challenges we hear time and again that the one element we really need, the element that can help guide and steer our policy decisions, inform our conversations and help us craft a responsible and safe industry, is research. Research is desperately needed so our farmers can grow the best product they can with the least amount of potentially harmful pesticides, research is needed to help us adequately understand the impact of industry "innovation" such as delta 8 conversion, research is needed to continue to monitor the financial impacts, market penetration and success of legalization, research is needed to prepare us for a future in which Washington takes the lead as the model other states will follow. We hope we can depend on your support this year.