

Department of Health- Medical Cannabis Program (MCP)

MCP Program Scope

- Medically Compliant Product
- Medical Cannabis Authorization Database
- Medical Cannabis Consultant Certification

HB 1859 Participation

- Dedicated Staff
- Weekly Meetings with WSDA and LCB
- Input in Decision and Rulemaking

WSDA and Cannabis

- Highlights – work involving 4 different divisions
- Cannabis-infused edibles, pesticide regulations, cannabis policy, hemp production and processing, and cannabis lab standards.
- 7 years of coordinated support and partnership with WSLCB and DOH.



DDD & DDE Remediation



- 200,000 dollars to distribute to farmers impacted by DDD & DDE for the purpose of soil remediation before June 30, 2023.
- Application forms were sent to 18 impacted licensees.
- WSDA received 3 Reimbursement applications, and evenly distributed the 200,000 dollars between the three businesses.
- While the sum did not cover the entirety of the farmers costs, it was able to cover a substantial amount of what was needed to purchase new soil.

Cannabis Lab Analysis Standards Program



HB1859 (2022)

- WSDA hired 3 staff: Supervising Chemist, a Lead Chemist, and a Lead Microbiologist to develop the Cannabis Lab Standards.
- WSDA convenes a weekly interagency collaboration meeting with staff from the LCB and DOH
- Ecology attends Interagency meetings to discuss issues related to transition and proficiency testing.
- WSDA CLASP team provides scientific support as it relates to “detectability” in response to changes made in SB 5367.
- Continues to engage in opportunities to address proficiency testing challenges.



Cannabis Lab Analysis Standards Program

- WSDA filed a CR 102 on November 22, 2023 to create the Cannabis Laboratory Standards.
- There will be a public hearing for the Cannabis Laboratory Standards on December 28, 2023 at 11am.
- We anticipate we will be able to finalize the rules prior to the end of January.

Hemp



- 2023: 47 hemp licensees and 27 inspections of farms harvesting their hemp.
- Of the 27 inspections, 5 farms tested hot, showing that a significant portion of hemp continues to struggle in meeting the 0.3% threshold.
- Possible increase in licensees post SB5367 implementation.
- Propose a study of infrastructure needs in 2024 for climate smart hemp building materials.
- 2018 Farm Bill extended through September of 2024, so no significant immediate changes.



2023 Legislative Update

- Budget: WSDA is requesting funds for the completion of an infrastructure needs assessment to support hemp as a climate smart building material (\$250,000 requested)
- Bill: WSDA proposes adding lab accreditation to our existing cannabis lab standards work (no new funding needed, however existing funding would need to become ongoing in 25-27 biennium). Major benefits include utilizing already hired scientific staff, streamlining the agencies involved in cannabis (from four down to the existing 3 in CLASP), and ability to maximize benefits of existing multi agency team.

and Cannabis Board (WSLCB) to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) effective July 1, 2024. Ecology's Lab Accreditation Program was given rulemaking authority and the initial funding needed to complete the scientific work required for accreditation. In 2022, HB 1859 organized the Interagency Coordination Team – Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), Department of Health (DOH), and WSLCB – led by WSDA. This team was tasked with establishing and maintaining laboratory standards for private cannabis laboratories. WSDA recommends using this interagency science team to conduct lab accreditation rather than funding a new team at Ecology.

PROPOSAL

WSDA proposes to transition private cannabis lab accreditation from WSLCB to WSDA rather than from WSLCB to Ecology as required by RCW 69.50.348. This proposal would streamline the cannabis science work conducted by the three



BILL HIGHLIGHTS

- Maintains interagency team that has been working to develop standards.
- Reduces the need to rehire for highly technical positions.
- Reduces costs to the State by streamlining hiring processes and utilizing trained staff with highly specialized knowledge to continue work on cannabis lab accreditation.
- Maintains staffing at WSDA to keep laboratory standards rules up to date as standards or methods evolve or change.
- Provides time for WSDA and WSLCB to work together through challenges related to