



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate Democrats champion cannabis modernization bill

SB 1511 seeks to reduce impacts on medical cannabis patients

SALEM – The Oregon Senate Democrats today passed a bill to ensure medical cannabis patients have access to medical marijuana free of taxation.

Senate Bill 1511 – carried by Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick (D-Portland) – passed today on an 18-10 vote.

“This bill was crafted to ensure that as we create the groundwork for a successful new Oregon industry, medical cannabis cardholders don’t suffer the impacts of higher prices and reduced access,” Burdick said. “Thousands of Oregonians rely on medical cannabis for pain relief and other medical benefits, and they should be able to continue getting the medicine they depend on without unnecessary barriers.”

Under current law there are two separate regulatory systems – the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program administered by Oregon Health Authority for medical cannabis and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission for adult recreational use – to oversee marijuana production, processing and sale. Preliminary data show that a significant number of medical cannabis growers, caregivers and dispensaries are moving over to the OLCC-run adult use system. This could potentially leave many of the 77,000 OMMP patients statewide without a medical grower, caregiver or dispensary.

SB 1511 includes several provisions that allow greater access to both systems for OMMP registrants, OLCC license-holders and the general public. It allows OLCC licensees the ability to

produce, process, transfer or sell marijuana to medical cardholders, processors and dispensaries tax-free. It also would allow medical cannabis dispensaries currently selling to non-OMMP cardholders in addition to their medical customers the ability to sell edibles and prefilled vaporizer cartridges containing extracts to non-cardholders.

OLCC licensees will be able to obtain a single license that will allow them to produce, process and sell both adult use and medical cannabis products within the OLCC-licensed system. It also prohibits OLCC-licensed retailers from collecting taxes on products sold to OMMP cardholders or designated primary caregivers. OHA will be required to adopt rules establishing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) single-serving limits for products sold to OMMP cardholders, as well as to those not registered for the program.

SB 1511 now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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