



Preventing Youth Use and Adult Misuse of Marijuana

Testimony provided to the Vermont House Human Services Committee, March 31, 2016
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System:

- Traceability – tracking product from seed to sale; maintains tracking of the product throughout the 3- tier system
- Extensive requirements for alarm and surveillance video
- No minors allowed on premises
- Behind-the-counter storage for products
- Products are lab-tested
- Buffer zones – No licensees allowed within 1,000 feet for child-centered locations – schools, playgrounds, parks, childcare centers, libraries, transit centers, arcades not limited to 21. A bill passed in the 2015 legislative session allowed jurisdictions, by ordinance, to reduce the buffer zone to not less than 100 feet, except for schools and playgrounds. Schools and playgrounds keep the 1,000 foot buffer.
- Home grows are not allowed in the recreational marijuana market

Strict Packaging and Labeling Requirements

- Limited to 10 servings per package, maximum 10 mg THC per serving
- Servings are individually packaged in childproof packaging
- Re-sealable packaging
- Homogenization required for even distribution of THC within a product
- Warnings required on labels
 - o “This product contains marijuana.”
 - o “This product has intoxicating effects and may be habit forming.”
 - o “This product may be unlawful outside of Washington state.”
 - o For edibles: “Caution: When eaten or swallowed, the intoxicating effects of this drug may be delayed by two or more hours.”
- Supplemental materials to be included:
 - o “There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product.”
 - o “This product is infused with marijuana or active compounds of marijuana.”
 - o “Should not be used by women who are pregnant or breastfeeding.”
 - o “For use only by adults twenty-one and older. Keep out of reach of children.”
 - o “Products containing marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug.”
- Marijuana-infused products cannot be especially appealing to children, e.g. no gummy candies, lollipops, cotton candy, brightly colored products

Advertising Restrictions

- 2 signs allowed on the building, 1600 square inches maximum size; sandwich boards, sign spinners and billboards have caused complaints

Funding Disbursements

Top layer with set dollar amounts:

- Liquor Control Board (now Liquor and Cannabis Board) (LCB) – administration and regulation - \$5 million per year
- Dept. of Social and Health Services (DSHS)– Healthy Youth and Young Adult Surveys, \$500,000 per year
- Dept. of Social and Health Services (DSHS) – WA State Institute for Public Policy – long-term evaluation – \$200,000 per year
- University of Washington (UW) – web-based public education - \$20,000 per year (LearnAboutMarijuanaWA.org)

Next layer, percentages of remaining amount once top layer is allocated (This includes not only the allocations as specified in the initiative but how the agencies have targeted the funds):

- DSHS – Prevention and reduction of substance abuse
 - o Evidence-based or research-based programs (85%)
 - o Proven and tested practice, emerging best practices or promising practices (15%)
 - o Community-based services in targeted communities designated as high need
 - o School-based services, including Life Skills Training
 - o Additional grants for community-based services – open competition
 - o Home-visiting
 - o Tribal grants for prevention and treatment
 - o Treatment programs
- Dept. of Health – Marijuana education and public health program
 - o Public health hotline with a focus on marijuana use
 - o Media-based education campaign, separately targeting youth and adults
 - o Community grants
 - General and priority populations (Priority populations include Hispanic/Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, LGBTQ)
- University of Washington – Research on short- and long-term effects
- Washington State University – Research on short- and long-term effects
- WA Health Care Authority – Contracts with community health centers
- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction – Drop-out prevention

Added in 2015 Legislative Session

- WA Poison Center funding
- Funding for local jurisdictions without bans or moratoria preventing the licensing of marijuana businesses within their jurisdiction.

WA State Liquor and Cannabis Board

- Website information – regulatory and education
- “Know the Law/What Parents Need to Know” cards
- “Marijuana Use in Washington State: An Adult Consumer’s Guide”