

Marijuana for Symptom Relief Oversight Committee 2020 Legislative Report

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Marijuana for Symptom Relief Oversight Committee

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In 2021 it is expected that the Vermont General Assembly will continue to amend 2019, No. 164, the new legislation that will regulate an adult-use cannabis marketplace in our state. Because of the COVID-19 crisis the Marijuana for Symptom Relief Oversight Committee is late delivering the annual report for 2020 as required under Title 18 Chapter 86. The committee recognizes our responsibilities are repealed under Act 164 and will end as of March 2022. However, because of the essentiality of the medical cannabis program we provide oversight for it is our intention to submit this preliminary report as well as additional advice throughout the year until the Cannabis Control Board is in place. In the meantime, we strongly advocate that the following points be considered:

- The Cannabis Control Board (CCB) should institute an advisory group, similar in composition to the current Marijuana for Symptom Relief Oversight Committee. Members should include important representatives of the patient and medical communities.
- Medical cannabis needs to meet recommended best practice methods on testing.
- There is a distinct difference in requirements and expectations for medical cannabis use contrasted to recreational use. As current dispensaries will be able to also do recreational sales, that needs to be a separate function. Benefits allowed to medical dispensaries, like vertical integration, are not for recreational application. The products need to be separate for reasons of content and availability.
- Medical cannabis will require different limits on THC, CBD and several less prominent cannabinoids, terpenoids and terpenes. These are active components for medical use.
- Best practices on patient accessibility and product efficacy will be presented in a later submission.

It has been and continues to be a top priority of this committee's mission to protect patient access to the medical marijuana program. During this transitional year for Vermont cannabis regulation, it is more important than ever that arrival of an adult recreational marketplace does not weaken or displace a still growing program that has become an essential healthcare component to many medical patients throughout the state.

Respectfully submitted,

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