

Cannabis Legislative Update

March 28, 2017

This week's Cannabis Legislative Update has a few states introducing bills designed to protect established markets and create new ones. As more states move forward with cannabis legislation, we'll continue providing relevant updates that affect our industry and your business. Something we missed? Let us know here and we'll make sure to include it in next week's post!

Colorado

Newly introduced legislation will remove some of the residency restrictions for individuals moving to Colorado hoping to enter the cannabis industry. Currently, potential employees must prove residency at the time they apply by providing a utility bill or pay stub. If passed, **SB 187** would allow the state licensing authority to create an exemption for occupational licenses for participation in cannabis-based work or education.

Connecticut

Senate Bill 00011, a bill to legalize and tax cannabis sales to adults 21 and over, was heard at a Judiciary Public Hearing on March 22nd. Several cannabis industry professionals, including **John Hudak from the Brookings Institution**, provided expert testimony, though the day ended in a virtual draw.

Georgia

Known as the Controlled Substances Therapeutic Relief Act, **SB 296** would repeal the Low THC Oil Patient Registry in addition to adding more qualifying conditions. The bill also seeks to provide protections for Georgia business owners and patients from Federal interference.

Indiana

A bi-partisan committee in Indiana has introduced legislation that would allow cannabidiol access to people suffering from epilepsy. The bill would create a pilot study and research how individuals suffering from intractable epilepsy react to CBD medication. If passed, **SB0015** would also require the state to create a patient registry system.

Nebraska



Introduced in the 105th Legislature, **The Medical Cannabis Act** would establish a patient registry, list of qualifying medical conditions, and guidelines for caregivers. Nebraska is one of the last states without some form of medical cannabis access.

Nevada

Legislation introduced by cannabis advocate Tick Segerblom seeks to provide an early start for Nevada's recreational cannabis industry. If passed, **SB 302** would have adult use facilities operational by 1/1/2018.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Representative Jon Echols has sponsored a bill that would authorize clinical trials and establish qualifying conditions for medical cannabis. **SB 745** would go into effect November 1, 2017 if passed.

South Carolina

A recent update to the **SC Compassionate Care Act** would exempt dispensaries from paying state sales taxes, opting instead, to pursue a separate tax structure. **Act S0212** would also provide patients and physicians with protections from law enforcement.

Texas

HJR111 proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize and regulate cannabis for medical use. As demonstrated in Florida, a constitutional amendment is an effective, though controversial, way to gain access to medical cannabis in the face of governing opposition.

West Virginia

A bill to authorize medical cannabis use in West Virginia is making progress. SB 386, known as the **Medical Cannabis Act**, was approved 6-5 by the Senate's Health and Human Resources Committee.

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