

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maine Department of Administrative & Financial Services
December 1, 2022 | Contact: Sharon Huntley

John Hudak Appointed Director of the Office of Cannabis Policy

AUGUSTA, Maine – Commissioner Kirsten Figueroa of the Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Service (DAFS) today announced the appointment of John Hudak, a leading expert on state, national, and international cannabis policy, as the Director of the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP).

“With the appointment of John Hudak as OCP’s next Director, Maine will remain in a position to effectively and responsibly license and regulate cannabis establishments statewide,” **said Commissioner Figueroa**. “John has an impressive background in cannabis policy and research, and we are excited about the experience and knowledge he will bring to OCP and the Department.”

John comes to OCP from the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, DC, where he served as Deputy Director of the Center for Effective Public Management and as a Senior Fellow in Governance Studies. For the past decade, John has led Brookings’ research into cannabis policy, regulation, implementation, and politics.

In addition to his roles at the Brookings Institution, John has worked as a consultant to numerous state and local governments on designing regulations, analyzing data, and improving policymaking related to cannabis. He holds a B.A. in political science and economics from the University of Connecticut and an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from Vanderbilt University.

“John’s work as a public policy analyst has given him the tools necessary for navigating all aspects of the cannabis landscape,” **said Vernon Malloch, OCP’s Interim Director**. “He offers an academic perspective that will be a welcome addition to the OCP team. We look forward to his leadership.”

John will assume his new role as the Director of OCP on December 30, 2022. He succeeds Erik Gundersen, OCP’s inaugural Director who stepped down from the position in October 2022.

“I have a significant appreciation for the ways in which Maine has implemented medical and adult use cannabis,” **John Hudak shared**. “I am eager to continue the work of OCP in addressing existing policies and regulations and in engaging with stakeholders to ensure that both of Maine’s cannabis programs thrive.”

About the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP)

The Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) within the Department of Administration and Financial Services (DAFS) was created in February 2019. The Office is responsible for the oversight of all

aspects of legalized cannabis in Maine, including the Medical Use of Cannabis Program and the Adult Use Cannabis Program.

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