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To: Maine Municipal Staff and Officials Responsible for Local Oversight and Regulation of Cannabis Businesses
From: Director John Hudak, Office of Cannabis Policy
Date: September 2, 2026
Subject: Cannabis-related Legislation Update for Municipalities – Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature

Executive Summary

This document provides an overview of laws enacted during the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature that may impact the local regulation of medical cannabis program participants by municipalities. Those laws include:

1. [P.L. 2025, ch. 512 \(L.D. 1840\)](#), which allows medical cannabis registrants to sell cannabis at events and public spaces that are not regulated by the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP).
2. [P.L. 2025, ch. 514 \(L.D. 1897\)](#), which significantly increases the amount of medical cannabis registered caregivers can grow outdoors.

Like all non-emergency legislation enacted during the Second Regular Session, those laws went into effect on July 29, 2026. The changes may require prompt action by municipal officials to review any existing warrant articles or ordinances governing the operation of medical cannabis registrants within the municipality.

OCP is providing this overview as a courtesy to interested municipal officials, but this document is not an exhaustive review of legislative changes that could affect municipal administration of the State's medical and adult use cannabis programs, nor should it be construed as legal advice. Municipal staff and officials are encouraged to contact their own counsel to determine what impact, if any, the changes identified below will have on operations within their own municipality. Individuals with questions specific to this guidance can contact OCP's Licensing Team at Licensing.OCP@maine.gov or OCP's Compliance Team at Compliance.OCP@maine.gov.

P.L. 2025, ch. 512 (L.D. 1840)

An Act to Amend the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act, [P.L. 2025, ch. 512 \(L.D. 1840\)](#), makes the following changes to medical cannabis sales:

- Expands the locations where cannabis for medical use may be sold or transferred to a qualifying patient or another registrant to include "trade shows or other industry-related events regarding cannabis for medical use".
- Allows for sales or transfers to be conducted "on public property that is not designated as a safe zone by a municipality pursuant to Title 30-A, section 3253 or in any other public

space where the sale, furnishing or transport of cannabis plants or harvested cannabis is prohibited in law.”

While this law expands the locations where medical cannabis may be sold or transferred to a qualifying patient or another registrant, it is important to note that it does **not** authorize the public consumption of cannabis for medical use. In addition, this law does **not** change any of the existing requirements applicable to sales or transfers of medical cannabis, including:

- Packaging and labeling;
- Recordkeeping and trip tickets;
- Verification of patient or registrant status; and
- Local authorization and approval requirements applicable to caregiver retail stores, which are defined as a store authorized in accordance with the medical cannabis law and used by a registered caregiver to sell cannabis paraphernalia, cannabis plants, harvested cannabis, related supplies or educational materials to qualifying patients and other items to the general public at a fixed location.

For reference, these new provisions for off-premises sales in Maine’s medical cannabis program differ from those in Maine’s adult use program. Unlike the off-premises sales of medical cannabis authorized by P.L. 2025, ch. 512, adult use cannabis stores conducting off-premises sales are required to obtain from OCP a permit to conduct such sales. In order to get a permit, the store has to have written authorization to conduct such sales from the municipality where the event is being hosted, as well as authorization from the owner of any private property where the specified event will be conducted. Off-premises sales of medical cannabis under this new law do not require registrants to obtain a permit for these activities from the Office, nor obtain a permit for such sales from the Office.

P.L. 2025, ch. 514 (L.D. 1897)

An Act Regarding Outdoor Cultivation in the Medical Use Cannabis and Adult Use Cannabis Industries, [P.L. 2025, ch. 514 \(L.D. 1897\)](#), makes the following changes to cannabis cultivation:

- Creates a new category of caregiver registration for caregivers cultivating their mature cannabis plants in an “outdoor cultivation area” defined as “a cultivation area that primarily uses sunlight for the cultivation of mature cannabis plants”.
- In accordance with section 3 of the new law, it permits caregivers that cultivate all their mature cannabis plants in an outdoor cultivation area to “cultivate between the months of March and December up to 150 mature cannabis plants, up to 300 immature cannabis plants and unlimited seedlings or cultivate between the months of March and December up to 2,500 square feet of mature plant canopy, up to 5,000 square feet of immature plant canopy and unlimited seedlings.”
- Allows any person to enter a caregiver’s secure cultivation area as long as they are “under the direct supervision of the caregiver.”
- Creates in the Cannabis Legalization Act, Title 28-B, ch. 1, definitions of “indoor cultivation” and “outdoor cultivation”.

OCP has issued additional guidance to cannabis licensees and registrants to provide clarity on the implementation of P.L. 2025, ch. 514. Copies of those documents are included below:

- [Registration and Licensing Requirements for the Outdoor Cultivation of Cannabis](#) (7/27/26)

- [Additional Guidance for Registered Caregivers Regarding Outdoor Only Cultivation](#)
(8/27/26)

For reference, caregivers with the existing indoor/outdoor registration type can cultivate up to 30 mature plants and 60 immature plants, or up to 500 square feet of mature plant canopy and up to 1,000 square feet of immature plant canopy. Caregivers with the new “Outdoor Only Cultivation” registration type can cultivate up to five times more cannabis.

Please note that nothing in this guidance should be construed to limit the ability of municipal governments to regulate the cultivation, manufacture, storage, sale, or transfer of cannabis for medical use within their boundaries; nor should this guidance be construed as legal advice. Municipalities should consult their own counsel regarding their authority and obligations regarding the local regulation of cannabis.