

FEBRUARY 2022



MONTH IN REVIEW

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PCC Members -

It was a good day for cannabis in Pennsylvania as Senator Regan held his second hearing on Adult Use. Thank you to the PCC members who contributed thoughtful testimony to the hearing. These legislative hearings are crucial to helping inform Adult Use Policy in Pennsylvania.

Tomorrow, The House Democratic Policy Committee will be holding a hearing hosted by Rep. Amen Brown on Adult Use in Philadelphia. [You can watch by clicking here.](#) The information is also listed later in the newsletter.

The Senate Law & Justice Committee will be holding a third hearing on Monday, March 14, 2022. Later in the newsletter there is a link to add the hearing to your calendar. Please be sure to tune in.

We are still closely watching what is going on in Commonwealth Court regarding the recall of vaporized products. I hope to be able to provide a more detailed update about today's proceedings tomorrow.

Please note the schedule for our 2022 Quarterly meetings is included on page seven of the newsletter. Please make sure to add these dates to your calendars.

Lastly, I am asking you all to engage with your teams and consider making a contribution to PC PAC. We have big legislative goals this year - getting adult use through the legislature will require a lot of resources. Our PAC dollars allow us to engage and educate legislators. Please advise if scheduling a meeting with your leadership teams would be helpful to educate them about the importance of association PAC contributions.

PENNSYLVANIA CANNABIS COALITION

P.O. BOX 11501 | HARRISBURG, PA 17108

717-220-3508 | WWW.PCANNA.ORG

Meredith Buettner, Executive Director

ADULT USE UPDATE

The Senate Law & Justice Committee chaired by Senator Mike Regan (R - PA 31) and Minority Chair Jim Brewster (D - PA 45) is holding a series of hearings on Adult Use Cannabis. The first hearing was held on February 10th and focused on law enforcement issues. A hearing held on February 28th focused on the experiences of other states in enacting Adult Use and the final hearing in the series will be held on Monday March 14th and will focus on the current medical program.

[CLICK HERE TO ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

Senate Law & Justice Committee Adult Use Marijuana Hearing

Monday, March 14, 2022

1:00 - 3:00pm



Senator Mike Regan

OTHER ADULT USE UPDATES

- Representative Dan Frankel's bill has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee. [Click here for HB2050](#)
- Senator Dan Laughlin and Senator Sharif Street's bill has been released. [Click here for SB473](#)
- Senator Mike Regan circulated a Co-Sponsorship Memo for Adult Use Legislation. [Click here for Co-Sponsorship Memo](#)
- State Representative Amen Brown circulated a Co-Sponsor Memo for Adult Use Legislation. [Click here for Co-Sponsorship Memo](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR CURRENT LEGISLATIVE TRACKING DOCUMENT](#)

2022 MMAB MEETING SCHEDULE

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD VIA ZOOM

MARCH 22 @ 10 AM

MAY 26 @ 10 AM

JULY 28 @ 10 AM

SEPTEMBER 27 @ 10 AM

NOVEMBER 22 @ 10 AM

DOH/PROGRAM UPDATES*

*DATA FROM NOVEMBER 16, 2021 MMAB VIRTUAL MEETING

Serious Medical Condition Applications

- Applications
 - Chronic Hepatitis - Approved

Program Data

- 681,504 Patients and Caregivers Registered
- 384,254 Active Patient Certifications
- 1,678 Approved Practitioners
- 16.5 Million Patients Dispensing Events
- 47.0 Million Products Dispensed
- \$4.0 Billion in Total Sales
 - \$1.6 Billion by GPs to Dispensaries
 - \$2.4 Billion by Dispensaries

Act 44 Implementation Status

- 33 Total Projects
 - 2 Major Projects/Programs (In Progress)
 - 7 Grower/Processors and Labs (4 In Progress/3 Implemented)
 - 5 Background Checks (1 In Progress/4 Implemented)
 - 2 Permitting (1 In Progress/1 Implemented)
 - 5 Dispensaries - Complete
 - 5 Governance/Regulations - Complete
 - 3 Practitioners/Caregivers - Complete
 - 4 Research - Complete

Medical Marijuana Assistance

- *Eliminating* the annual card fee for eligible participants (Q1 2022)
- *Eliminating all* federal background check fees for eligible caregivers (Timing TBD)
- Assisting patients with the purchase of medical marijuana via a to-be-determined benefit *amount per funding period per eligible patient* (Timing TBD)

Vape cartridge recall announced by PA Department of Health includes 670 products

Rob Edwards, Grown In, February 23, 2022

A recall issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health earlier this month of 670 items, including cannabis liquid vape cartridges and liquid distillate dart pods, included specific details on the items recalled. But the regulators' recall reasons have not been as detailed.

Multiple phone calls and messages left with DOH by Grown In over the last week went unanswered, a recurring theme with the department, according to experienced industry advocates.

"I wish I had some clear answers," said Chris Lindsey, Director of Government Relations for the Marijuana Policy Project. "We seem to have some regulators that have decided to create some regulation out of thin air.

"It was a pretty big surprise to a lot of folks here that there is a ban based on regulations that don't exist."

Meredith Buettner, executive director of the Pennsylvania Cannabis Coalition, a consumer advocacy group, claims that although Pennsylvania is considered to have one of the strictest testing regimes in the country, the recall process has been unclear with little in the way of transparency from the DOH.

"From what we are aware of and what has been publicly reported, there are no adverse effects from these products," Buettner said last week. "We have asked for clarity and for meetings and information to help better understand and we have been denied all of that."

Buettner believes the Department is reevaluating products against an FDA standard for inhalation, and considering that cannabis is still federally illegal, they're using an unfair measurement.

"They are applying a [federa] standard and from my evaluations they don't have the authority to to apply this kind of standard. Safety is the highest priority for our operators. If there are products unsafe for patients, we certainly support there being repercussions, but I haven't seen anything from the DOH that indicates to me that these products are unsafe."

Since the recall operators and advocates have been trying to answer: While various vape carts for unregulated vaping products containing nicotine, CBD, or Delta-8 continue to stay on shelves, why are regulated medical cannabis products being taken off the shelves at state licensed facilities being recalled?

"This has a lot of negative impact for medical patients," said Lindsey. "It begs the question, what is going on?"

Two Bay State towns could lead a trend to repeal local adult-use bans

"The information that I have is that the decision was based on certain ingredients that have not been approved by the FDA. The problem is, because cannabis is illegal to the federal government, there are no ingredients that have been approved.

"It's a nonsense rule and no other jurisdictions have taken this action. There hasn't been a problem with these devices anywhere else," Lindsey continued.

The DOH released a document on Feb. 2 detailing known additives in products that were part of the recall. Earlier, in November 2021, the Department reached out to suppliers to ask for a list of non-cannabis ingredients included, with a warning that anything not on the FDA-approved list would likely become a part of the withdrawal.

Curaleaf, one of 15 companies impacted by the recall notice, appeared 94 times.

"This was an unexpected, and we feel, unjustified change in regulation regarding products that have previously been tested and approved for sale," read a Curaleaf corporate statement. The company operates 101 dispensaries in 23 states. "The Pennsylvania DOH has never indicated whether any specific concerns underlie the recall."

Robert Rudnitsky, executive director of PhillyNORML, the Philadelphia chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, was not as surprised to hear the news of a recall, especially regarding vape products.

"When laws are changed, sometimes the i's are not dotted and the t's aren't crossed," Rudnitsky said. "We are four years into the game and still learning. I can deal with a recall of pens because it's regulation. It is necessary."

Curaleaf says it is complying with the Department on the matter, claims that many of the products on the DOH recall list had not yet been marketed, and released its own recall notice for patients.

Upcoming Fundraisers



Raising PAC dollars for our legislative partners is critical to achieving our goals in the legislature.

Please consider contributing to P.C. PAC by mailing personal or LLC check to :
P.C. PAC
P.O. Box 11501
Harrisburg, PA 17108

[CLICK HERE TO CONTRIBUTE NOW](#)

Senator Mike Regan
Chairman
Law & Justice Committee

Cordially invites you to
join him for a
St. Paddy's Day Happy Hour
Tuesday, March 15, 2022
5:00-6:30 p.m.

Ever Grain Brewing Co.
4444 Carlisle Pike, Camp Hill, PA 17011

\$500/Pot of Gold Sponsor
\$250/Four Leaf Clover Sponsor
\$100/Leprechaun Sponsor
\$50/Committee Person

RSVP to Nan McLaughlin at 717-215-3356
or events@mjmstrategiesllc.com

Make checks payable to:
Mike Regan for Senate
P.O. Box 624, Harrisburg, PA 17108

Paid for by Mike Regan for Senate

You may also contribute directly to our legislative partners by sending contributions to their campaigns directly.

Please list PCC in the memo of your check if you choose that route so they know your contributions support our collective goals.

HOST:
MARTY BURGER,
SILVERSTEIN
PROPERTIES

Join us for a
RECEPTION
in support of
Rep. Amen Brown

16 ^ MARCH ^ 2022
5:30pm - 7:30pm
Pyramid Club
1735 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

CONTRIBUTION LEVELS
SUPPORTER: \$500 ^ FRIEND: \$1000 ^ SPONSOR: \$2500 ^ CO-HOST: \$5000

RSVP to CitizensforAmenBrown@gmail.com.

Make checks payable to:
Citizens for Amen Brown, P. O. Box 42857, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

Personal contributions only, no corporate contributions allowed by law. Donations are not tax deductible.
Paid for by Citizens for Amen Brown.

Pennsylvania House Democratic Leadership

Rep. Joanna E. McClinton, Minority Leader

191st District, Delaware and Philadelphia Counties

Rep. Jordan A. Harris, Democratic Whip

186th District, Philadelphia County

Rep. Dan Miller, Caucus Chairman

42nd District, Allegheny County

Rep. Tina Davis, Caucus Secretary

141st District, Bucks County

Rep. Mike Schlossberg, Caucus Administrator

132nd District, Lehigh County

Rep. Ryan Bizzarro, Policy Committee Chair

3rd District, Erie County

Rep. Matthew Bradford, Democratic Appropriations Chair

70th District, Montgomery County



House Democratic Leader
Representative Joanna McClinton



House Democratic Whip
Representative Jordan Harris

IMPORTANT DATES*

House Democratic Policy Committee Hearing
Tuesday, March 1 @ 1pm

Grower/Processor Call: Second Tuesday of the Month
Tuesday, March 8 @ 1pm Via Zoom

Senate Law & Justice Committee Hearing: Adult Use
Monday, March 14 @ 1pm

Senator Regan St. Paddy's Day Happy Hour
Tuesday, March 15th (See page 5)
Contribution Required

Rep. Amen Brown Reception
Wednesday, March 16th (See page 5)
Contribution Required

Legislative Input Call: Third Thursday of the Month
Thursday, March 17th @ 1pm Via Zoom

PCC First Quarter Membership Meeting
Friday, March 25th @ 12noon Via ZOOM

PCC Second Quarter Membership Meeting
Friday, June 3rd @ 12noon Via Zoom

PCC Third Quarter Membership Meeting
Friday, September 9th @ 12noon Via Zoom

PCC Fourth Quarter Membership Meeting
Friday, December 2nd @ 12noon Via Zoom

**All times are EST*



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

TerrAscend

Vertically Integrated Multi State Operator

Executive Committee

Jamie Ware, Holistic Industries: Chair
Jeremy Unruh, PharmaCann: Vice-Chair
John Sullivan, Cresco Labs: Treasurer
Sara Payne, Jushi: Secretary
Gabe Perlow, Pure Penn: At-Large

TerrAscend is a leading North American cannabis operator with vertically integrated operations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and California, licensed cultivation and processing operations in Maryland and licensed production in Canada. TerrAscend operates The Apothecarium dispensary retail locations as well as scaled cultivation, processing, and manufacturing facilities on both the East and West coasts.

TerrAscend's cultivation and manufacturing practices yield consistent, high-quality cannabis, providing industry-leading product selection to both the medical and legal adult-use markets. The Company owns several synergistic businesses and brands, including The Apothecarium, Ilera Healthcare, Kind Tree, Prism, State Flower, Valhalla Confections, and Arise Bioscience Inc.

To learn more visit www.terrascend.com

PCC Affiliate Members

Please considering using PCC Affiliate Members when you are choosing service vendors. These businesses are our partners in the PA market.

[Cerealia Group - Transportation Services](#)

[Core Design Group - Engineering Services](#)

[Global Go Consulting - Business Consulting](#)

[Greentank - Vape Technology](#)

[Hamburg Rubin - Legal Services](#)

[McKim & Creed - Engineering Services](#)

[PAMMJ - Patient Certifications](#)

[Principle Abstract & Settlement Services, LLC - Title Insurance](#)

[ScarletEx - Closed Loop Delivery](#)

[Utility Rate Analysts - Energy Consulting & Procurement](#)

COALITION CORNER

Highlighting our Industry Partners

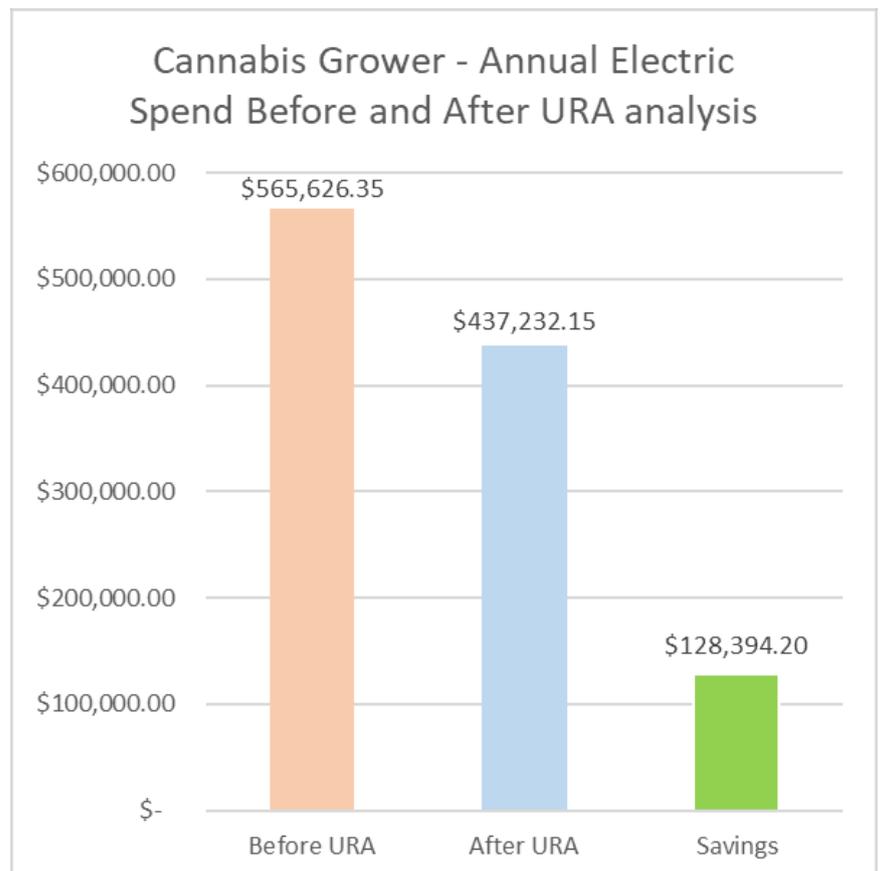
As we're all painfully aware, energy prices have risen drastically in the last year. From gasoline at the pump to home heating bills, we've all felt it. Cannabis businesses are no exception. URA, Inc. (Utility Rates Analysts) of Mechanicsburg PA is very skilled at navigating through complex utility tariffs, etc., helping companies reduce those costs. The chart shows an actual grower (with locations in multiple states) that is a client of URA's and the savings they helped the grower achieve. The savings are significant (22%) and that is only for a single location. There is no cost or risk to have a conversation with URA in fact, their services require very little hands on involvement from clients. URA has been in business since 1991.

Visit their website or send an email to learn more:

www.utilityratesanalysts.com

info@utilityratesanalysts.com

Copy & graphic provided by Utility Rates Analysts



To be featured in next month's Coalition Corner please email Meredith@pcanna.org