

JUNE 2021



MONTH IN REVIEW



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PCC Members -

Today, Governor Wolf signed HB 1024 into law. There is a lot to be excited about in HB 1024 including the codification of the Covid-19 regulatory waivers, the ability to refresh genetics and the allowance of API in the program. A summary of HB 1024 begins on page four.

While there is much to be celebrated, I share the disappointment that many of you have expressed in not being able to achieve all of our goals with this piece of legislation. I want to share with you that our team worked tirelessly to make sure the voices of our members were heard throughout the negotiations on this bill.

I believe that our conversations with Legislators, the Department of Health and Governor Wolf's Administration benefited not only HB 1024 but the PA MMJ Program as a whole. We will now begin to work on a strategy to solve the remaining issues - notably the allowance of full remediation and the elimination of duplicative testing.

In addition PCC will engage with the Office of Medical Marijuana, DOH and our legislative partners to ensure the timely implementation of HB 1024.

Thank you for all of your advocacy during the last several weeks to help get HB 1024 to the Governor's Desk. Your advocacy was crucial to our team's efforts and your outreach resonated with members of the General Assembly.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Happy Fourth of July to you and yours!

Meredith Buettner
Executive Director

PENNSYLVANIA CANNABIS COALITION

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COVID WAIVER UPDATE

- Governor Wolf extended the Covid Emergency Disaster Declaration on 5/19/21
- HB 1024 codified the waivers issued under the Covid Declaration
- Most provisions of HB 1024 go into effect immediately upon the Governor's signature, including those represented by the waivers

ADULT USE UPDATE

- Representatives Jake Wheatley and Dan Frankel introduced a Co-Sponsorship Memo titled: "The Cannabis Regulatory Control Act" (Adult-Use Cannabis)
- PCC's Adult Use Committee will review the bill and provide comments
- Should you wish to see a copy of the bill please email Meredith@pcanna.org

PC PAC INFORMATION

The Pennsylvania Cannabis Political Action Committee is the bipartisan political action committee of PCC. The goal of the PC PAC is to support candidates seeking elective office that advocate for access to medical and/or adult-use cannabis in Pennsylvania.

Suggested initial contributions to PC PAC:

Grower Processors: \$5,000

Dispensaries \$2,500

Clinical Registrants: \$2,500

Laboratories & Affiliates: \$1,000

Please mail your contributions to:
PC PAC | 204 State Street | Harrisburg, PA 17101

Corporate contributions cannot be made to PC PAC



CONTRIBUTE NOW

DOH/PROGRAM UPDATES*

Market

- \$2.8 Billion in total sales
- \$1.1 Billion in sales from G/Ps to Dispensaries
- \$1.7 Billion in sales from dispensaries to patients
- 150,000 weekly patients visits to dispensaries
- 11.9 Million dispensing events
- 34 Million products dispensed to date

Operational Permits

- 30 GPs (Includes operational CRs)
- 25 Shipping products to dispensaries
- 120+ Dispensaries
- 30 Dispensary locations

Chapter 20 Update

- All approved and affiliated with ACRCs
- Initial research published
- Additional Studies approved

Patients

- 582,059 patients and caregivers registered
- 343,634 active certifications

Physicians

- 1,561 registered practitioners

Pricing

- Prices have dropped 7% as sales volume increases and the number of operational dispensaries grow
- Patient demand for flower continues to grow as demand for vape products declines

Counties with a Patient Demand greater than 2,000 WITHOUT a dispensary

- Venango (Northwest Region)
- Potter, Tioga, Bradford (Northcentral)
- Wayne, Pike, Carbon (Northeast)
- Bedford (Southcentral)
- Armstrong, Indiana (Southwest)

Patient Hardship Fund

- DOH's position is that the fund cannot be established until final regulations are filed and the \$3million loan from the state has begun repayment.

*Data from May 18, 2021 MMAB Virtual Meeting

Gov. Wolf Signs Legislation Expanding Access to Medical Marijuana

June 30, 2021

Governor Tom Wolf signed legislation that will provide important updates to Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana Act to ensure better access for patients.

House Bill 1024 acts on recommendations made by the Department of Health to revise the Medical Marijuana Act, which was signed into law in 2016. Specifically, it protects patient safety standards and product quality of Pennsylvania's medical marijuana program while empowering the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board to continue to consider new medical conditions for eligibility. It will also retain certain flexibilities enacted under the state's COVID-19 disaster declaration that patients and dispensaries found convenient.

"It's been five years since Pennsylvania legalized medical marijuana, and in that time the Department of Health has examined the program's successes and challenges and made important recommendations on improving the law," Gov. Wolf said. "This legislation provides important updates to our state's medical marijuana program to ensure that patients have improved access to medication."

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-signs-legislation-expanding-access-to-medical-marijuana/>

MODERNIZING ACT 16: HB 1024 Summary

Our team worked diligently over the last several months to ensure our priorities were included in HB 1024. A majority of the provisions are effectively immediately. This is crucial specifically for MMO's to continue with the Covid-19 regulatory waiver such as curbside delivery which was made permanent by HB 1024.

There were more than two dozen changes made to Act 16 via HB 1024 including:

Operations

- Allows DOH to establish one 30-day period a year during which GPs can bring in new genetics from outside Pennsylvania.
- Allows Gps to obtain and transport bulk post-harvest material from any GP, including CRs.
 - Includes any unfinished plant material or plant-derived material
- Allows CRs to sell finished products directly to dispensaries.
- Moves pesticide approval authority to the Dept of Agriculture.
- Provides that the Department of Agriculture will post a list of pesticides for use by GPs within 30 days of the effective date of passage, and at least annually thereafter, in the PA Bulletin.
- Allows for hemp and hemp-derived ingredients to be obtained for and added to MM products.
- Allows for other products to be added with DOH approval, with special attention being provided to GRAS products.
- Allows remediation of yeast and mold for topical products.
 - May eventually lead to remediation being allowed.
 - Must be labeled as "remediated"
 - This section expires upon publication in the PA Bulletin of the Secretary's approval of the findings of a remediation "research initiative"
- Makes changes to stability testing protocols, requiring that stability samples be stored at the GP and that stability testing is conducted in six months intervals until six months after the expiration date.

continued on next page

Dispensaries:

- Allows dispensaries to dispense a 90-day supply, up from 30 days
- Allows dispensaries permittees to interchange the designation of the primary locations with other locations
- Removes two-year sunset for dispensary operation after rescheduling.

Technology:

- Decreases the period of time that surveillance footage must be stored from 24 months to six months.
- API will be allowed six months from the effective date of the amendment to allow DOH time for procurement.

Human Resources:

- Allows MMOs to have employees work in a supervised capacity until DOH approves their affiliation.
- Allows MMOs to have financial backers, principals, and employees with misdemeanor drug-related charges, or felonies whose conviction are ten years old or longer AND are drug-related or nonviolent.

Legal:

- Adds an additional two CR licenses
 - Applications to become available within 120 of effective date
- Limits ACRCs to one CR partner
- Limits new licenses to applicants that have not previously applied for and won CR licenses.
- Removes the requirements for background checks regarding any financial backers of under 5% of the licenses, as long as DOH deems that the under 5% financial backers are not substantially involved in operations.

Definitions Section

- Provides statutory definition for excipient: "Solvents, chemicals, or materials reported by a medical marijuana organization and approved by the Department for use in the processing of medical marijuana."
- Clarifies the regulatory intent of the use of the word "excipient."
- Provides statutory definitions for "harvest batch," "harvest lot," and "process lot."
- Provides framework for new statutory language regarding stability testing.
- Provides statutory definitions for medical marijuana product: "The final form and dosage of medical marijuana that is grown, processed, produced, sealed, labeled, and tested by a GP and sold to a dispensary."
- Provides additional clarification, and framework for new statutory language.

Patients:

- Expanded definition of caregiver - Allows patients to designate individuals that work in home health, palliative care, Long-term care, or hospice settings to be their caregiver so they can purchase and administer MM.
- Removes limit on the number of patients a caregiver can have (Previous limit was five patients).
- Codifies new patient conditions that were approved by the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board after the law passed as well as some others:
 - Cancer remission therapy
 - Damage to the nervous tissue of the brain
 - Neuropathies associated with nervous tissue damage
 - Remove the requirement for chronic pain to have to be the type in which "conventional therapeutic intervention and opiate therapy is contraindicate or ineffective."
 - Through previous Advisory Board recommendations: Anxiety, Tourette's & Opioid use
- Removes requirement to repay initial state funding from the program within ten years, allowing for medical marijuana program funding to be re-dedicated to patient and caregiver programs including the patient hardship fund - to help patients with the cost of medicine.
- Gives the Advisory Board continuing ability to recommend, and the Secretary authority to effectuate through PA Bulletin:
 - Change types of certifying professionals
 - Change, add, or reduce medical conditions
 - Change forms of marijuana permitted
 - Recommend how to make MM more affordable

JUNE 2021

LEGISLATOR SPOTLIGHT: SENATOR MIKE REGAN (PA-31) CHAIRMAN, LAW & JUSTICE COMMITTEE



A fiscal conservative with a track record of fighting crime and protecting families, Mike Regan was first elected to the Pennsylvania Senate in November 2016 and was re-elected to a second term in November 2020. He also served two productive terms in the state House of Representatives, after compiling more than two decades of law enforcement and public safety experience, which continues to inspire his legislative successes, constituent outreach and community service.

He currently serves as Chairman of the Law & Justice Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Local Government Committee and as a member of the Community, Economic, & Recreational Development Committee; Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee; Judiciary Committee; and Rules & Executive Nominations Committee.

Born and raised in central Pennsylvania, Mike served as a member of the U.S. Marshals Service within the U.S. Department of Justice, beginning in 1988. He began his career as a Deputy U.S. Marshal in the Southern District of Florida. In 1990, he returned to the Commonwealth as a Deputy U.S. Marshal in the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and ascended to the post of Fugitive Task Force Commander in 1995.

In 2002, President George W. Bush nominated Mike to become the U.S. Marshal for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and served capably until his retirement in 2011, after 23 years of service. His extraordinary crime-fighting efforts led to his selection for the prestigious Public Service Excellence Award from the City of Harrisburg, and the U.S. Marshals Distinguished Service Medal. In 2020, Regan was awarded the Middle District of Pennsylvania's U.S. Marshals Medal of Valor.

Following his retirement from the Marshals Service, Mike was named Deputy Inspector General of Pennsylvania, where he directed efforts to prevent, investigate and eradicate waste, fraud and abuse in state agencies and the Department of Public Welfare (now the Department of Human Services).

Elected to the state House of Representatives in 2012, Mike took on issues like sanctuary cities, medical cannabis, welfare reform, liquor privatization, school funding equity, local tax reform, the opioid epidemic and veterans' issues.

In his first term in the House, Mike authored legislation to strengthen the penalties for unlawfully luring a child into a motor vehicle or structure, which was passed unanimously in both chambers and signed into law as Act 116 of 2013. He also authored Act 7 of 2016, which reformed horse racing and gaming laws and protected historical distilleries.

During his first term in the Senate, Mike was a leader on strengthening school security and protecting taxpayers.

Following the tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida, Mike was asked by Senate Leadership to spearhead the Senate's School Safety Task Force. After months of traveling across the state and hearing from members of law enforcement, emergency responders, superintendents, teachers and students, Mike helped to author a comprehensive bill that created multiple programs to improve school safety and security as well as provided a massive increase in school safety funding. Act 44 of 2018 allows for assessments, planning, training, and equipping our schools with the resources they need to ensure our children are safe. The act also includes a total of \$60 million in new school safety grant funding.

Mike introduced comprehensive welfare reform legislation that became Act 125 of 2018. Act 125 addresses the most egregious abuses of our welfare system and enhances the law to protect the eligibility of our society's most vulnerable and needy. This legislation addresses the eligibility of high-level felony drug dealers and non-compliant sex offenders and places controls on how and where EBT cards can be used, preventing the use of the cards at casinos and adult entertainment venues.

As Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee during the 2019-2020 legislative session, Mike was a leader on expanding the National Guard Educational Assistance Program to allow a spouse or children to receive a free five-year higher education when a member reenlists for an additional six years of service. He also convened roundtables across the state on the topic of Veterans Suicide, which led to Mike's championing legislation, signed into law as Act 111 of 2020 to establish Veterans Courts in Pennsylvania.

Always focused on protecting others, Mike also proudly shepherded Peyton's Law through the legislature, making Pennsylvania only the second state in the nation with a law focused on educating parents and student athletes about the role an EKG can play in a pre-participation physical for detecting underlying heart defects. Named in honor of Peyton Walker, a graduate of Trinity High School in Camp Hill, who died of Sudden Cardiac Arrest at the age of 19, the legislation became Act 73 of 2020.

Mike graduated from Cedar Cliff High School and received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Albright College. Mike and his wife, Fran, reside in Carroll Township, in the Northern York School District, and are the proud parents of four children. Over the years, Mike has inspired local youth as a wrestling and football coach and a Dillsburg-area soccer coach.

The 31st District includes parts of Cumberland and York Counties.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Acreage Holdings: Prime Wellness

PCC Grower/Processor Member

Prime Wellness of Pennsylvania is located in Sinking Springs. Operating out of our 30,000-square-foot, and expanding, state-of-the-art indoor cultivation facility, Prime Wellness uses environmentally friendly biologicals to ensure the healthy development of plants and the health of patients. Plant material is harvested, lab tested, and put in cold storage for butane extraction.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

The PCC Affiliate Membership program brings together the greater Pennsylvania Cannabis Community in order to advance legislation, regulations and implementation of Pennsylvania's cannabis program. Affiliate Membership is open to any entity who supports the purposes of PCC and is engaged in the business of supplying current permit holders with goods and services. Examples of Affiliate Member businesses include but are not limited to cannabis accessories; cultivation equipment or supplies; dispensary equipment or supplies; financial, legal, advocacy or insurance services; packaging, security or software companies.

Affiliate Members may participate in all PCC programming, meetings and receive coalition communications. Affiliate Members may join relevant committees but are not eligible for membership on the Executive Committee as they are classified as Non-Voting. Affiliate Members will receive an updated business-to-business contact sheet for all members on a quarterly basis and have logo and company information displayed on the Affiliate Member page of the PCC Website. Opportunities for advertising in PCC communications and presenting at membership meetings are also available to Affiliate Members.

Affiliate Membership is \$1,000 per quarter

If you have a vendor who may be interested in becoming an affiliate member please email Meredith@Pcanna.org.

IMPORTANT DATES*

**Dispensary Call
Tuesday, July 6 @ 1pm Via Zoom**

**Adult Use Committee Call
Wednesday, July 7 @ 1pm Via Zoom**

**Grower/Processor Call
Tuesday, July 13 @ 1pm Via Zoom**

**Advocacy & Outreach Committee Call
Tuesday, July 20 @ 1pm Via Zoom**

**Legislative Input Committee Call
Thursday, July 22 @ 2pm Via Zoom**

**3rd Quarter MMAB Meeting
Tuesday, August 17 @10am Via Zoom**

**3rd Quarter Membership Call
Thursday, August 19 Time TBD**

**All times are EST*

EMAIL MEREDITH@PCANNA.ORG TO BE ADDED TO A CALL OR COMMITTEE TODAY.

Dues invoices are emailed quarterly to your billing contact. To check or update your billing information please email Meredith@pcanna.org

MEMBERSHIP INFO

PCC 2021 Dues Schedule PER PERMIT

GPs: \$3,000/quarter
Dispensaries: \$1,500/quarter
Labs: \$1,500/quarter
Clinical Registrants: \$4,500/quarter
Affiliates: \$1,000/quarter