

MARCH 2022



MONTH IN REVIEW

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PCC Members -

This week the Senate Banking & Insurance Committee voted unanimously to move SB 1167 SAFE Cannabis Banking out of committee. Senator DiSanto, Chairman of the Senate Banking & Insurance Committee, has been great to work with on this issue and we are thankful for his dedication to ensuring increased financial access for legitimate cannabis businesses.

SB 1167 also include a 280E provision which is a big win for the industry. The Department of Revenue would like to see this provision strip from the bill. It is crucial that you call your Senators ([Click Here to Find Your Senator](#)) and tell them how important the 280E provision is MMOs.

We are still closely watching what is going on in Commonwealth Court regarding the recall of vaporized products. All parties have filed the necessary briefs and the decision on preliminary injunction lies with the Court. We will continue to provide updates as we receive them.

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 again asking you all to engage with your teams and consider making a contribution to PCC 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.

Meredith V. Buettner
Meredith Buettner, Executive Director

PENNSYLVANIA CANNABIS COALITION
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ADULT USE UPDATES

- The Senate Law & Justice Committee chaired by Senator Mike Regan (R - PA 31) and Minority Chair Jim Brewster (D - PA 45) concluded it's series of three hearings on Adult Use Cannabis.
- We anticipate Senator Judy Ward (R- PA 30) Chair of the Senate Aging & Youth Committee will hold a hearing featuring the voices of opponents of legalization. Your advocacy will be necessary when Senator Ward's hearing is scheduled. Please watch your email for legislative alerts.
- 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](#)

DOH/PROGRAM UPDATES FROM MARCH MMAB MEETING

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS MARCH 22, 2022 POWERPOINT PRESENTATION](#)

Program Data

- 740,757 Patients and Caregivers Registered to date
- 406,454 Active Patient Certifications
- 1,779 Approved Practitioners
- 20.0 Million Patients Dispensing Events
- 56.8 Million Products Dispensed
- \$4.8 Billion in Total Sales
 - \$1.9 Billion by GPs to Dispensaries
 - \$2.9 Billion by Dispensaries

Act 44 Implementation Status

- NO UPDATE OFFERED

Medical Marijuana Assistance

- Implemented:
 - Elimination of the annual card fee for eligible participants
 - Eliminating all background check fees for eligible caregivers
- Not Yet Implemented:
 - Direct patient assistance - monthly value for patients

Subcommittee Updates of Note

- *Medical Research*
 - Discussion of adding edibles to program
 - Law Enforcement & Medical professionals expressed objections despite a robust & thoughtful presentation by patient advocate - Luke Schultz
- *Patient and Caregiver Subcommittee*
 - Findings and Recommendations about Affordable Access to Medical Marijuana
 - *Six Recommendations:* 1) No Price Caps, 2) Expand Competition by Adding New Permits, 3) Reduce Burdensome Regulations, 4) Expansion of Assistance Programs, 5) Allowing Two-Year Certifications for those with Chronic or Terminal Conditions, 6) Homegrow for Patients & Caregivers
 - MMAB Voted AGAINST accepting the recommendations

MARCH 2022

Unanswered questions surrounding PA vape recall draw litigation

Rob Edwards - GROWN IN, March 30, 2022

Two months have passed since the Pennsylvania Department of Health issued a recall on over 600 medical cannabis vape cartridges and operators remain in the dark on the future for recalled product that remains in secure storage.

Seeking answers, a group of cultivators, manufacturers, and dispensaries formed PA Medical Marijuana Access and Patient Safety (PAMMAPS) to file litigation and to recoup losses resulting from the DOH recall.

"I will frame it this way," said Judith Cassel, an attorney from HMS Legal representing the PAMMAPS group. "One of our witnesses, Dr. Sue Sisley, has said that these specific types of products are sold in all legalized marijuana states and have been so for over 10 years.

"So that means that tens of millions of people have used these kinds of products without incident. That is the largest clinical trial in the world. There is no pharmaceutical company that can boast such results."

Cassel estimates \$18 million in sales losses resulting from the recall.

"It's significant," she continued. "It is not a small deal. It's a very significant loss that would result from this recall."

The good news is the product has not been destroyed. The Department of Health has allowed secure storage of potentially affected products, pending the outcome of the preliminary injunction filed.

The DOH has issued no follow up comment since issuing the recall, and declined to comment to Grown In on matters involved in litigation.

"Join the club," laughed Oliver Summers, a cannabis advocate and a director of compliance for Superior Herbal Health in Los Angeles, California, who has over 20 years of experience managing cultivation operations and dispensaries. "I wish you could see my shocked face."

Cassel, on behalf of PAMAPPS, contacted the DOH prior to the Feb. 14 recall and asked for clarity on what prompted the decision.

"[These products] had been preapproved for years," said Cassel. "We had reached out before the recall and continue to try and be open if they want to discuss options.

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

"The litigation we filed in February was a preliminary injunction for a withdrawal of the recall and for products to be placed back on shelves and the appropriate hands so patients can partake in the right medicine they feel they need for their condition.

"The hearing was scheduled for Feb. 24 and then again a week later and the DOH did not put on any witnesses. They did not defend their position. We have since filed briefs and it's in the hands of the judge at this time."

Agri-Kind, another company listed on the DOH withdrawal from market list, is a Pennsylvania cultivator that has products served at various dispensaries throughout the state. They were also recently awarded a conditional license in New Jersey to begin operating in preparation for adult use legalization.

According to their website, Agri-kind uses only 100 percent cannabis extract, which extends to the terpenes in its vape products. There is a drop-down banner for consumers to garner as much information from the DOH recall as possible, but unfortunately only states what other operators have said previously - they are currently investigating why their products were included and are working to rectify the situation.

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“It was a huge shock and a huge hit,” said Agri-Kind founder and CEO Jon Cohn. “Most of the others were because they used after-market terpenes, botanicals derived from plants. We never did that and never would use additives of any sort.”

Agri-Kind chose not to be a part of the PAMAPPS suit, but filed their own. The decision to file separately is based on the belief that they shouldn't be grouped in with other operators who may not use completely natural terpenes. Cohn says Agri-Kind found itself on the DOH's recall list due to a filtering process that uses bentonite clay, a product commonly used in alcohol filtering and even by fitness enthusiasts for health and wellness.

“Vodka and gin are filtered by it,” said Cohn. “Almost everyone in the world does this. They got back to us and said if we could prove it they would rescind our recall. We went to three labs and proved there was none in the end product. ... we actually showed it was cleaner than flower.”

There is no immediate timeline for a judge's ruling on either suit.

“We are still at a point where if something tests positive on cherries, they say you can still sell these,” said Summers. “But if that same positive comes on cannabis, it will be destroyed and you can't sell it. There's a crazy double standard.

“So when it comes down to stringent rules, obviously, I'd like to see them loosened up. I think most of them are asinine.”

IMPORTANT DATES*

Dispensary Call: First Tuesday of the Month

Tuesday, April 5 @ 1pm Via Zoom

Grower/Processor Call: Second Tuesday of the Month

Tuesday, April 12 @ 1pm Via Zoom

Legislative Input Call: Third Thursday of the Month

Thursday, April 21 @ 1pm Via Zoom

MMAB May Meeting

Thursday, May 26th @ 10am Via Zoom

PCC Second Quarter Membership Meeting

Friday, June 3rd @ 12noon Via Zoom

MMAB July Meeting

Thursday, July 28th @ 10am Via Zoom

PCC Third Quarter Membership Meeting

Friday, September 9th @ 12noon Via Zoom

MMAB September Meeting

Tuesday, September 27th @ 10am Via Zoom

MMAB November Meeting

Tuesday, November 22nd @ 10am Via Zoom

PCC Fourth Quarter Membership Meeting

Friday, December 2nd @ 12noon Via Zoom

**All times are EST*



PCC PAC

BIG GOALS REQUIRE BIG BUDGETS

Who can contribute?

- Individuals
- PACs
- Certain LLCs

How much can you contribute?

- Any amount helps
- There is no limit
- Average 2021 contribution was \$1,000

REASONS TO GIVE TO PCC PAC

- We need to stand up for those who stand up for us
- We must continue to build a coalition of legislative support
 - PAC Dollars grab legislators attention and allow our lobbying team and staff more facetime with more legislators
- Other PACS WILL spend against us
- There is legislation being considered NOW that affects MMOs
 - State Safe Banking - INCLUDES 280e
 - Workplace Legislation

**Please consider contributing to PCC PAC
by mailing personal or LLC check to :**

**PCC PAC
P.O. Box 11501
Harrisburg, PA 17108**

[CLICK HERE TO CONTRIBUTE NOW](#)

PAC SPENDING BY ACTIVE ASSOCIATIONS

Organization	2021 Spend	2020 Spend
PA Realtors	\$ 1,158,281.00	\$ 873,216.00
PA State Education Association	\$ 622,836.00	\$ 2,069,327.00
Operators for Skill	\$ 313,618.00	\$ 365,420.00
PA Trial Lawyers	\$ 228,459.00	\$ 857,093.00
PA Chamber PAC	\$ 209,669.00	\$ 137,750.00
PA State Police (State Lodge)	\$ 116,685.00	\$ 54,925.00
Horseman	\$ 109,536.00	\$ 74,406.00
PA Health Care Association	\$ 102,415.00	\$ 32,158.00
P.C. PAC	\$ 14,207.00	\$ 4,865.00

Senator John DiSanto (R)
15th District, Dauphin & Perry Counties

Committee Assignments

Banking & Insurance, Chair
Urban Affairs & Housing, Vice Chair
Education
Labor & Industry
Transportation



John DiSanto is a second-generation family business owner with broad experience in construction and real estate development. He is a managing trustee of the Terra Trust, a real estate development and investment trust that owns and operates a multi-state portfolio of properties as well as construction and property management service providers. In 2016, John was elected to the Senate representing the 15th Senatorial District, which covers most of Dauphin County and all of Perry County. His agenda includes reforming government, cutting wasteful spending, eliminating property taxes and removing bureaucratic barriers to job creation. John has been instrumental in many large-scale philanthropic initiatives, including construction of the new Bishop McDevitt High School and both building and rehabilitating homes for Habitat for Humanity. He has actively supported educational programs, youth athletics and many other charitable causes that strengthen our communities. Born and raised in the Harrisburg area, John graduated from Central Dauphin High School and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a focus on Urban Planning from American University. He and his wife, Maria, have two grown children.

Senator DiSanto is the prime sponsor of the SAFE Cannabis Banking Act (SB 1167). SB 1167 received a unanimous vote in the Senate Banking Insurance Committee on March 30, 2022 and has been reported to the full Senate for First Consideration.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Justice Grown 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

JG explores, curates and celebrates all things cannabis from a place of openness, inclusivity and fun, with the idea that we all deserve to feel good. Whether you're escaping pain or embracing life, we celebrate your choice to feel better with thoughtfully produced, high quality cannabis products that gets you to where you want to be. No resistance here, just a better route to feeling better.

One thing is for sure: At JG we're not just a dispensary, we're a lifestyle and a community. We believe in the power of people, plants and the combination of the two. We believe in sticking to our values and stand in truth. We believe in community, connection, and real conversation. We believe in hugs, good vibes, and high fives.

We've spent years studying the power and science of cannabis. The more we learn, the more we are convinced: Cannabis can improve many aspects of one's life.

Good quality cannabis products can change everything. It can lead us to healthier, happier, calmer, more connected and more creative lives. Above all else, it can make you feel good.

Whether it's relief from pain, a pathway to creativity or simply a higher vibration, we believe that everyone stands to benefit from the power of cannabis.

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

Principle Abstract and Settlement Services specializes in title insurance and settlement services for residential properties, commercial properties, refinances and new construction. We are an independent service provider operating in the great state of Pennsylvania that caters exclusively to our clients. Our years of experience make us a trusted source for unbiased, thorough and honest representation at the closing table.

Independent

We are not affiliated with any bank, legal provider or real estate agency. This means that our only concern is a successful transaction for our clients.

Track Record of Success

Our team has nearly 15 years of success with both residential and commercial transactions in the Bucks County / Montgomery County Pennsylvania areas and beyond.

We Work Tirelessly for You

Our only concern for our clients. We understand that a real estate transaction is more than just that. It is your future home, your future business, and a significant investment. Our team specializes in peace of mind throughout the entire process with first rate customer service, responsiveness and accessibility.

