
SENATE BILL 6542

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senator Kohl-Welles

Read first time 02/03/14. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the state cannabis industry
2 coordinating committee; creating new sections; and providing an
3 expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that voter approval of
6 Initiative Measure No. 502 established a new recreational cannabis
7 industry in Washington state consisting of producers, processors, and
8 retailers. The legislature further finds that this new industry is
9 projected to create new jobs and generate revenues to the state
10 estimated as high as \$1,943,936,000 over five fiscal years. The
11 legislature also finds that there is a medical marijuana community in
12 the state with some legal protections for qualifying patients. The
13 legislature further finds there is potential interest to expand into
14 other areas, such as industrial hemp, food processing, farmers'
15 markets, and banking. As such, given a potentially evolving demand and
16 market in new areas, it is the intent of the legislature to create a
17 state cannabis industry coordinating committee to promote and further
18 develop the industry while remaining in compliance with federal
19 guidelines. It is the intention of the legislature that the committee

1 will coordinate and monitor new developments and impacts on Washington
2 state, and to make recommendations to the legislature on establishment
3 of a state comprehensive plan.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A state cannabis industry coordinating
5 committee is established, to consist of:

6 (a) Two senators and two representatives, one from each of the two
7 largest caucuses of the senate and the house of representatives,
8 appointed by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house
9 of representatives;

10 (b) One representative from each of the following state agencies:

11 (i) The liquor control board;

12 (ii) The department of health;

13 (iii) The department of commerce;

14 (iv) The department of revenue;

15 (v) The office of the treasurer;

16 (vi) The department of agriculture; and

17 (vii) The department of financial institutions; and

18 (c) Nine industry stakeholders, appointed by the governor, that
19 include representation from established and emerging markets for the
20 use of cannabis including, but not limited to, the markets for
21 recreational and medicinal marijuana, the various commercial uses of
22 industrial hemp, and other uses that may be relevant.

23 (2) The committee must appoint its own chair and other officers and
24 make rules for orderly procedure.

25 (3) The committee has the following powers and duties:

26 (a) Developing a state comprehensive plan that identifies and
27 coordinates the various business opportunities within the cannabis
28 industry, including potential opportunities;

29 (b) Developing a method for monitoring and assessing the economic
30 returns the cannabis industry delivers to the state;

31 (c) Examining and reporting on any changes in federal law that may
32 impact the legal operations of the cannabis industry in the state;

33 (d) Making recommendations for a statewide cannabis industry
34 coordinator;

35 (e) Providing specific preliminary recommendations regarding the
36 issues in (a) through (d) of this subsection to the appropriate

1 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2014, and a final report
2 by July 1, 2015.

3 (4) Staff support for the committee must be provided by the senate
4 committee services, the house of representatives office of program
5 research, and the represented state agencies.

6 (5) Legislative members of the committee must serve without
7 additional compensation, but must be reimbursed for travel expenses in
8 accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative members, except those
9 representing an employer or organization, are entitled to be reimbursed
10 for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

11 (6) This section expires January 1, 2016.

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