



ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

AB 1448 (Wallis): Cannabis – enforcement by local jurisdictions As Amended May 5, 2023 – SUPPORT

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), California State Association of Counties, and the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), we are pleased to support Assembly Bill 1448, which enhances local enforcement mechanisms against unlicensed cannabis activities. Enhanced tools at the local level are needed to combat this highly lucrative and harmful unlawful activity.

AB 1448 incentivizes local jurisdictions to use the statutory penalties for unlicensed cannabis activities by revising Business and Professions Code 26038 to allow a 50/50 state-local split of the statutory penalties recovered in actions brought by local jurisdictions, as originally enacted by the Legislature in the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA). The State of California rarely utilizes statutory penalties, and the current proceeds distribution desensitizes local government from pursuing penalties for large-scale unlicensed operations. Revenues from these actions will provide a much-needed source of funds to reinvest in illicit cannabis enforcement and adequately cover the costs of pursuing penalties.

AB 1448 proposes a streamlined local administrative penalty process to strengthen enforcement mechanisms for local jurisdictions. The existing local penalty process framework was primarily designed for ordinary zoning and building violations, and these processes are not well suited to addressing large-scale illegal commercial cannabis operations.

AB 1448 will bolster safe access to the cannabis market by targeting enforcement against unlawful operators that undermine the legal marketplace and undercut local economies. For these reasons, RCRC, CSAC, and Cal Cities are pleased to support AB 1448. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Dukett (RCRC) at sdukett@rcrcnet.org, Ada Waelder (CSAC) at awaelder@counties.org, or Elisa Arcidiacono (Cal Cities) at earcidiacono@calcities.org.

Vote YES on AB 1448

cc: The Honorable Greg Wallis, Member of the California State Assembly
Members of the California State Assembly
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