



Soft-Start of Adult-Use Cannabis Sales (SB 460)

According to the law as it is currently written, possession and recreational consumption of marijuana becomes legal for adults over the age of 21. However, adult marijuana consumers will not be able to legally purchase cannabis from regulated, licensed facilities until sometime in 2016.

Delaying adult-use sales of cannabis much later than July 1st, 2015 creates public safety concerns:

- **Fuels the black market**, instead of collecting tax revenue for our cities and counties to fund education, public safety, and drug abuse prevention programs
- Forces consumers out on the street to buy **products that are not tested, are not labeled, have no packaging/labeling requirements, and may be sold to children**
- Creates uncertainty for legal cannabis businesses at a time when the industry is in its infancy – **there needs to be a level playing field to subvert the black market**

Solution: Pass SB 460, that allows currently licensed OHA dispensaries to sell usable marijuana, as defined in ORS 475.302, to anyone who is 21 years of age or older for an interim period.

- **Diverts marijuana away from the black market immediately** and into a tightly regulated, controlled, and taxed retail environment in state-licensed facilities
- OHA dispensaries currently have **rigorous identification and requirements**, making it easy to verify that all customers purchasing marijuana are 21 or over
- The state can **begin collecting taxes on legal cannabis sales as soon as possible**, instead of that money going to criminals and drug cartels to fund further illegal activity
- Allows the legal cannabis industry to mature, while giving the OLCC the time it needs to develop a permanent set of rules for regulating adult-use cannabis sales in a way that **grows our state's local economy without fueling the black market**

This model resembles how Colorado implemented legalization, allowing licensed medical dispensaries to sell to all adults 21 and over for an interim period. By not utilizing their existing medical dispensary framework, Washington's implementation plan created artificial scarcities in supply, and prices increased.

Regarding edibles, the [Oregon Health Authority](#) already has rules and regulations in place requiring testing, as well as opaque, childproof packaging, not considered attractive to minors, and with warning stickers for all edible medical marijuana products – we can use these rules and simply add dosage standards for adult-use products based on what Colorado established (10mg/dose) to prevent overdoses. That said, ORCA still strongly supports SB 460 even if the legislature wishes to delay the sale of edibles.

We urge the members of the Joint Committee on Implementing Measure 91 to pass SB 460, and to send it to the Senate floor with a Do-Pass recommendation!

The Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association (ORCA) is a trade association of retail cannabis businesses working to shape smart cannabis policy that prioritizes public safety while allowing our economy to thrive. For more information, visit us online at www.oregoncannabisretailers.com

Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Implementing Measure 91,

On behalf of the Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association, I again wanted to thank you for taking the time to listen to the thoughts of our members regarding Senate Bill 460 - to allow existing OHA dispensaries to begin sales of "limited marijuana retail products" to adults 21+ some time later this year.

To clarify some of my comments from yesterday's hearing, while we do feel that there does not necessarily need to be a delay on the sale of edible cannabis products, we understand if the legislature would like to hold off on allowing this until the OHA has cleared up some of the ambiguity surrounding testing, dosaging, labeling, etc. and we still strongly support SB 460 in it's current form.

We believe that Oregon's cannabis retailers are ready to make this change as soon as possible, **we strongly support any of the proposed start dates in the -2, -5, -6, or -7 amendments (July, August 1, September 1, or October 1), whichever the committee feels is most appropriate.**

Again, thank you for all of your hard work this session. You truly have done an outstanding job navigating this complex area of public policy, and the framework you have developed this session should make Oregon a model for the nation.

Respectfully,

Casey Houlihan

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Casey Houlihan
Executive Director
Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association
phone: 541.632.4442
email: casey@oregoncannabisretailers.com
web: www.oregoncannabisretailers.com