

Senate Bill 1544 is important marijuana legislation to clean up a number of glitches from prior legislation, as well as address a number of significant concerns expressed by federal authorities. The bill:

- Fixes a glitch in Oregon law so that cities and counties with a small number of marijuana retailers can comply with budget law when dealing with marijuana tax revenues (Section 1).
- Clarifies that an OLCC licensed producer with a medical certificate can sell immature plants to medical cardholders (Section 2).
- Makes a number of technical changes and clarifications to the medical marijuana program with regard to plants (Sections 3 to 5).
- Allows OHA to set limits on the number of medical seedlings that can be possessed (section 6). There is currently no limit, and this is a federal concern.
- Creates the Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant Program with the Criminal Justice Commission to assist local governments with costs incurred by local law enforcement agencies in addressing unlawful marijuana cultivation or distribution (Sections 7, 7a, and 13 through 17). This is a major federal concern. The grant program would be started with \$1.5 million per year.
- Clarifies that just because a medical grow site is subject to tracking because it has more than 12 mature plants does not mean, by itself, that the marijuana grow site is a “commercial” operation for purposes of state law (Section 8). This does not impact local ordinances, and does not mean that state agencies can’t make a “commercial” determination based on other factors.
- Gives the Cannabis Commission more time to prepare their report detailing what further legislative actions should be taken to assist the medical marijuana program (Sections 9 and 10).
- Grandfathers city or county determinations that a geographic barrier, such as a river or freeway, separates a marijuana shop from a school such that the shop can be less than 1,000 feet from the school if it is at least 500 feet from the school, so that OLCC does not have to make a new determination upon license renewal for that shop (Section 11).
- Provides that industrial hemp products sold in OLCC licensed shops be labelled as such (Section 19).
- Clarifies that high THC industrial hemp products (above .3% THC) can only be sold in OLCC licensed shops and cannot be exported (Sections 20 and 21). This is a significant federal concern.

Please vote YES on Senate Bill 1544.