

SB15-260

MEDICAL MARIJUANA PRODUCT TESTING

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Background:

- When *recreational* marijuana was adopted in Colorado in 2012, extensive regulation, including a requirement for testing for THC potency and contaminants, was mandated.
- But when *medical* marijuana became legal in Colorado in 2000, the industry was in a much more primitive state, and no provision for (and therefore no regulation of) medical marijuana testing was instituted.

Need:

- The medical efficacy of THC and related products varies with the plant strain of origin, potency of the extract, and formulation. Patients need to have accurate information about the potency of their particular preparation, and the extent of contaminants, if any.
 - Children being treated for seizures are particularly susceptible to great variation in potency and strain or origin. Parents need to know what they are giving their children.

What the Bill Does:

- The bill authorizes the Marijuana Enforcement Division to establish a medical marijuana and medical marijuana infused products testing program for THC content and contaminants such as mold, mildew, and pesticides.
 - Medical marijuana dispensaries must submit samples of their plant and infused products for analysis to a lab licensed for medical marijuana testing
 - Any product that fails this testing shall be quarantined and destroyed.
- Mandatory medical marijuana testing would not begin until after the creation of a marijuana reference library designed to ensure consistent protocols and reliability.
- Holders of a medical marijuana testing license cannot have an interest in any other part of the medical or recreational marijuana industry.
- The bill creates the same standards for medical marijuana testing facilities as for retail marijuana testing facilities.

Fiscal implications

- State revenue from licensing fees is expected to exceed state costs in regulating the testing facilities. Therefore, any new appropriations will be less than the expected revenue

Summary

- SB15-260 will ensure that patients know what they are receiving, to better manage their affliction.
- SB15-260 will provide for accurate and consistent labeling of medical marijuana products
- SB15-260 will facilitate much-needed research on the medical efficacy and side-effects of marijuana
- SB15-260 will lead to more state revenue than expenses.