

MEDICAL MARIJUANA REGULATION AND SAFETY ACT¹

What Cities Need to Know About the New Law and Delivery Services

OVERVIEW

Here's what you need to know:

- **Local prohibition or regulation:** Cities may prohibit or regulate medical marijuana businesses within their jurisdictions. **Local authority remains intact under the new law.**
- **State license required:** All medical marijuana businesses – dispensary sales, delivery service, cultivation, or transport – must have a State license².
- **State license not enough:** A medical marijuana business in any city may only operate if it has permission from the State **and** permission from the city (“dual licensing”).
- **Enforcement:** Revocation of local permission to operate means a medical marijuana business must terminate operation because the new law requires dual licensing. Upon approval of the State, a city may enforce State law.
- **State law penalties for unlicensed activity:** There are civil penalties and criminal penalties for operating without a State license.

DELIVERY

Here's what you need to know:

If a city does not expressly prohibit the delivery of medical marijuana within its jurisdiction, delivery will be allowed (with a State dispensary license). This means that if your city wishes to prohibit the delivery of medical marijuana within its jurisdiction, the city must adopt an ordinance expressly prohibiting delivery services and mobile dispensaries.

DELIVERY

Here's what you need to do:

- Determine whether your city currently bans delivery services for medical marijuana.
- If you have a ban, determine whether it is an express ban, or a ban enacted via permissive zoning (i.e., it is not listed in your zoning or other codes as a permitted activity within the city limits).
- If you have an express ban specifically identifying marijuana deliveries as a prohibited activity, you do not need to take further action.
- If you wish to prohibit delivery services but do not have an express ban, **you need to take further action.**

ACTION REQUIRED: Adopt an ordinance expressly banning deliveries within your jurisdiction. If you do not adopt an express ban ordinance before the State begins issuing any State licenses, a State-licensed dispensary will be able to deliver medical marijuana within your jurisdiction. You may adopt an ordinance expressly banning deliveries after the State begins to issue licenses. However, it may be difficult to terminate the State licensee's deliveries at that time. Therefore, best practice is for an ordinance to be in place before the State begins issuing State licenses. The State currently estimates that it will begin issuing dispensary licenses in January 2018, but that could certainly happen sooner.

- A ban enacted via permissive zoning is not an express ban.

Be sure to consult with your city attorney before taking any of the actions recommended in this document.

¹ AB 266 (Bonta, Cooley, Jones-Sawyer, Lack, Wood); AB 243 (Wood); and SB 643 (McGuire). Effective 1/1/2016.

² The Department of Consumer Affairs estimates it will begin issuing State licenses in January 2018. The Department of Food and Agriculture and the Department of Public Health also have licensing authority under the new law. Businesses operating in compliance with local ordinances will get priority in the State licensing application process.