



HB 17-1220 & 1221

BUILDING A STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH COLORADO'S CITIES AND TOWNS

MARIJUANA

BLACK/GRAY MARKET DIVERSION & PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 17-1220 & 1221 - YOUR "YES" VOTE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED

HB 17-1220 – Statewide residential plant count limit

Municipalities around the state have expended an untold amount of local taxpayer dollars fighting the ability of criminals and scofflaws to "hide in plain sight" under broad rights given by Amendment 64's allowance for people to grow their own marijuana. While many may do so responsibly, others far exceed the six-plant limit, creating neighborhood public safety and nuisance impacts. Organized criminal elements consolidate large grows in multiple locations, and then traffic the marijuana to the black market within and outside of Colorado.

Municipalities first began adopting restrictions on the total number of plants per residence because of neighborhood impacts. However, it has become clear that these administrative, complaint based penalties are of little disincentive to those inclined on skirting ordinances for more product or to traffic marijuana. The risk of violence, fire, contamination from mold and chemicals, and any other number of dangers to the public cannot continue to go unaddressed by the state.

HB 17-1220 will create a statewide twelve-plant limit in residential areas statewide, while allowing local governments to make any appropriate modifications based on local circumstances. The bill will allow the burden not only to fall upon local law enforcement but also allow the state to potentially share the burden by enforcing state law.

HB 17-1221 – Black/gray market marijuana grant program

The League also supports HB 17-1221 as a modest step by the General Assembly allowing the state to use some of the significant marijuana tax revenue corrected to pay for combatting the diversion occurring from within and outside of the regulated system. While the League will continue to press for a higher amount of funding for the grant program, any assistance is welcome.

The program will be focused on rural areas of the state and will provide grants for local law enforcement and district attorneys to bring those illegally diverting marijuana to the black and gray markets to justice. In the future, the General Assembly should give more weight to assistance regardless of location in the state. Many municipalities, regardless of their opt-in/opt-out status, have impacts from diversion, as well, and the League believes that marijuana should first pay its own way as to impacts created.

The bill will be strongly enhanced by amendments, and the League wholeheartedly supports those that create greater clarification of ambiguous terms used in Amendment 64.

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