

April 8, 2019

The Honorable Mike McGuire
State Senator, Senate District 2
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 67 (McGuire) Cannabis: Temporary Licenses - SUPPORT

Dear Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors I am writing to express our support for SB 67, which would allow temporary commercial cannabis licenses issued by the state to remain valid until January 1, 2020 so long as the annual application was submitted before the temporary license expired. The bill requires state licensing entities to report to the state on the status of applicants. Additionally, the bill expands the provisional annual process.

SB 67 allows the state to extend temporary commercial cannabis licenses in order to address the growing backlog of pending annual license applications at state licensing agencies. Temporary licenses were meant to be an intermediary step while state and local licensing entities continued to build and implement their respective regulatory programs. With thousands of temporary licenses set to expire in the next month, SB 67 will allow the state more time to work through applications, while keeping businesses in the regulated market.

The County of Monterey supported SB 1459 (Chapter 857, Statutes of 2018) last year which allowed state licensing agencies to issue provisional commercial cannabis licenses to businesses that are working their way through the local permitting process. That bill was signed into law and provided additional time for local permitting authorities to work through the environmental review process and for cannabis businesses to continue to operate while demonstrating regulatory compliance.

Counties and other local governments are partners with the state in implementing Proposition 64 and the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA). SB 67 would provide a short-term solution as the state continues to transition from temporary to annual licenses, and additional certainty to cannabis businesses working in good faith through the regulatory process.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy advisor, Jennifer Capitolo of Nossaman LLP, at jcapitolo@nossaman.com or 916-930-7706.

Sincerely,

John M. Phillips
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Bill Monning
Senator Anna Caballero
Assemblyman Mark Stone
Assemblyman Robert Rivas
California State Association of Counties

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