

Medical marijuana home delivery under consideration in Michigan

8/29/18

Medical marijuana patients could soon have their medicine delivered to their homes, under a **proposed set of rules** Michigan officials are taking into consideration.

Home delivery of medical marijuana has only been possible in Michigan if a patient had a relationship with a caregiver. Now under a set of permanent rules the state is now considering adopting for the medical marijuana industry, that could change.

Provisioning centers could send out an employee to deliver products to patients directly in a transaction as simple as ordering a pizza or Chinese food.

"It's a movement that will be good for the industry as a whole," said Travis Copenhaver, a senior associate attorney with Cannabis Legal Group in Royal Oak. "For patients, traveling by car isn't always in the cards for them. And not every patient can work with a caregiver."

Marijuana home deliveries **are allowed** in Oregon, California and Nevada -- though their programs are not all universal. Colorado, Washington, Alaska and Washington D.C. don't allow for home delivery. Under the proposed rules in Michigan, medical patients could order online and pay online for home deliveries.

Provisioning centers would be allowed to staff one person to make home deliveries, who could only deliver to three patients at a time, according to the proposed rules. The provisioning center would have to be able to track the delivery's GPS location at all times during the delivery, and logs would have to be kept. Deliveries would only be allowed to the home address of the patient.

Copenhaver said the proposed rules for home delivery are a good starting point, but could see areas that may need to be adjusted in the future. For example, the proposed rules allow for one staffer to conduct home deliveries.

While one delivery person may be able to handle a small market, a larger market may pose a challenge, Copenhaver said. He also noted that there is no limit to the number of miles a delivery person can drive on their route.

"It's a good rule that we can build on as the industry matures," Copenhaver said. "It strikes me as a response to comments they've been hearing up until this point."

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Attorney **Michael Komorn** is recognized as an expert on the **Michigan Medical Marijuana Act**. He is the President of the Michigan **Medical Marijuana Association (MMMA)**, a nonprofit patient advocacy group which advocates for the rights of medical marijuana patients and their caregivers.

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Medical patients living in a city or township that has banned medical marijuana businesses from operating could receive deliveries from provisioning centers, said David Harns, spokesman for the state's Bureau of Medical Marijuana Regulation.

Medical marijuana businesses have been operating under emergency rules this year, and the state is now moving to adopt permanent rules.

"This is the structure we've been asking for," said Rick Thompson, editor-in-chief of Michigan Cannabis Industries Report.

A [hearing on the permanent rules](#) is set for Sept. 17. The emergency rules and permanent rules are largely the same, save for the ability of provisioning centers to make deliveries, Copenhaver said.

Medical marijuana businesses that have been temporarily operating in Michigan under the emergency rules have until Sept. 15 to obtain a state license. After that date, any operating business without a license will be sent a cease and desist letter beginning Sept. 17.

To date, the state licensing board has approved 16 licenses -- but critics don't believe the industry will be up and running by Sept. 15.

"There will be a hard reset of the industry," Thompson said.

From MLive

https://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2018/08/medical_marijuana_home_deliver.html

-- Amy Biolchini is the marijuana beat reporter for MLive. Contact her with questions, tips or comments at abiolch1@mlive.com.
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