

Massachusetts Cannabis Agency Greenlights Cannabis Transfer to Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket

The Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) has recently approved the transportation of cannabis products between mainland Massachusetts and Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, following strong advocacy from local cannabis advocates and patients.

Rule Change

Previously, federal jurisdiction over the waters of Vineyard Sound prevented cannabis transportation across the water or via airspace. However, the CCC revised this rule on June 13, allowing cannabis products to be shipped on sea-worthy vessels to the islands, effective June 14.

Impact

The change is expected to benefit the islands' 500 medical and adult-use cannabis consumers, as well as limited cannabis business owners. The move aims to improve patient access and combat the illicit market affecting Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

Response

Geoff Rose, owner of Island Time, a medical cannabis dispensary on Martha's Vineyard, praised the CCC's decision, calling it a "great day" for operators on the island. He highlighted the importance of patient access and expressed gratitude for the CCC's attention to the issue.

Legal Action

The decision follows a period of uncertainty when the island's only cannabis production license holder, Fine Fettle, announced its closure, leading to concerns about product availability. Rose and The Green Lady, another local cannabis business in Nantucket, filed a lawsuit seeking an injunction to allow cannabis delivery to the islands.

Resolution

The lawsuit prompted the CCC to revisit its policy, resulting in the rule change allowing cannabis deliveries. Adam Fine, attorney representing Island Time and The Green Lady, confirmed that the lawsuit would be dropped following the CCC's decision.

Future Outlook

The CCC's swift action has been praised for ensuring patient access and public safety. Chloe Loftfield, general manager of Fine Fettle, expressed optimism about the future of cannabis on Martha's Vineyard, highlighting the positive impact of the rule change.

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