

Rural Rice County Pauses Cannabis Business Until 2025

Rice County Implements Moratorium on Cannabis Businesses in Rural Areas

In a decisive move, the Rice County Board of Commissioners placed a moratorium on [cannabis businesses](#) in rural areas during their regular business meeting on Tuesday morning. This action aims to give county staff ample time to study how cities within Rice County have approached the regulation of cannabis businesses.

Moratorium Details and Scope

While cannabis businesses are still permitted to operate within incorporated cities of Rice County, those looking to set up shop in rural areas will have to wait until next year. The moratorium, which will be in effect until 2025 unless ended prematurely by the board, allows for a thorough examination of regulatory practices and their impacts.

Hemp-derived THC gummies, such as those available at Faribo Smoke Shop in 2022, remain unaffected by the moratorium due to their low potency. However, the new Minnesota law has made it illegal for smoke shops to sell THC vapes without a specific license, reflecting tighter controls over higher-potency products.

Regulatory Landscape and Public Opinion

The moratorium comes as part of a broader effort to ensure that Rice County's approach to cannabis business regulation is well-informed and balanced. Counties and cities often have a set number of licenses to distribute for cannabis operations, and imposing caps can impact how these licenses are allocated across different jurisdictions.

Commissioners opted to "test the waters" before allowing the industry to expand unchecked, authorizing a study to investigate how incorporated cities within Rice County have managed cannabis business regulations. This cautious approach aims to prevent potential issues and ensure that any regulatory framework implemented is effective and appropriate for the county's needs.

During a brief public hearing prior to the vote, one member of the public voiced strong opposition to the cannabis industry. The individual argued that the industry loses money for governments that legalize it and contributes to societal destruction.

However, according to the Marijuana Policy Project, a research and advocacy group for the cannabis industry, states have generated over \$20 billion in marijuana tax revenue since the industry began taking off a decade ago. This significant financial impact highlights the economic potential of the industry, despite the concerns raised.

Next Steps for Rice County

While the moratorium is in place, county staff will conduct a comprehensive study on how cannabis businesses are regulated within Rice County's cities. This study will inform future decisions and help the Board of Commissioners determine the best path forward for regulating cannabis businesses in rural areas.

The decision reflects a broader trend among local governments to proceed cautiously with cannabis industry regulation. By taking the time to study and understand the impacts of cannabis businesses, Rice County aims to balance economic opportunities with community concerns and regulatory challenges.

The Rice County Board of Commissioners' decision to implement a moratorium on cannabis businesses in rural areas underscores the importance of careful planning and consideration in the regulation of the emerging cannabis industry. As the study progresses and more data becomes available, the county will be better positioned to make informed decisions that benefit both the local economy and community welfare. The moratorium represents a proactive step towards responsible governance in the face of a rapidly evolving industry.

Email: info@cannabisriskmanager.com | Phone: +415-226-4060

© Copyright 2025 Cannabis Risk Manager. All Rights Reserved