

# Washington, D.C. Council Greenlights 4/20 Medical Cannabis Tax Holiday

Washington, D.C. leaders approve tax holiday on medical marijuana purchases around 4/20 celebration, from April 15 to April 28.

The District Council unanimously passed legislation for a tax holiday, supported by various cannabis-related proposals, including a buffer zone for dispensaries around schools.

## **Councilmember McDuffie Advocates for Market Revitalization**

Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie emphasized the tax holiday's importance in revitalizing the legal market and strengthening the District's medical cannabis program, introduced on behalf of Mayor Muriel Bowser.

## **Extension of Validity Period for Registration Cards**

The legislation extends the validity period for medical marijuana registration cards to six years and clarifies the authority of the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA) to shut down unlicensed retailers, prioritizing public safety.

## **Empowering Administration with Investigative Authority**

An amendment unanimously adopted empowers the administration to effectively investigate licensed medical marijuana businesses, ensuring regulatory compliance.

## **Support for Medical Marijuana Industry**

The tax holiday not only encourages patients to remain within the regulated system but also supports the growth of the medical marijuana industry.

## **Echoes of Previous Measures**

This move mirrors a similar tax holiday included in a 2022 bill aimed at curbing rising cannabis costs at licensed dispensaries and addressing the threat posed by illicit cannabis operations.

## **Debate Surrounding Dispensary Proximity to Schools**

Despite positive steps, the council rejected a proposal to adjust rules regarding the proximity of medical marijuana dispensaries to schools, citing concerns about its impact on applicants, particularly those in commercial or industrial zones.

## **Ongoing Discussion on Cannabis Legalization**

The debate reflects the ongoing discussion surrounding cannabis legalization in the District, with some council members advocating for broader legalization while congressional barriers persist.

## **Consideration of Enforcement Authority Extension**

The council also considered extending cannabis enforcement authority while awaiting congressional review of a regulation bill passed earlier this year.

## **Navigating the Complex Regulatory Landscape**

This comprehensive approach underscores ongoing efforts to navigate the complex landscape of cannabis regulation in Washington, D.C.

Email: [info@cannabisriskmanager.com](mailto:info@cannabisriskmanager.com) | Phone: +415-226-4060

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