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**Natalie M. LaPrade Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission Posts Applications  
For Those Seeking Grower, Processor and Dispenser Licenses**

***Application Deadline is Nov. 6, 2015***

**BALTIMORE, MD (Sept. 28, 2015)** – The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s Natalie M. LaPrade Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission (MMCC) today announced it is seeking applications from qualified applicants interested in receiving a license to operate as a medical cannabis grower, processor or dispenser within the state. License applications in each of these categories have been posted to the Commission’s website: <http://mmcc.maryland.gov>.

The deadline to submit an application is Nov. 6, 2015. The Commission anticipates that the application evaluation, scoring and ranking period will be completed by mid-January 2016, although final timing will depend on the volume of applications received.

“We’re pleased to reach this important milestone in the development of a new industry that will create jobs, expand the tax base and, most importantly, enable the delivery of safe and effective medicine to patients in need,” said Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission Executive Director Hannah Byron.

Upon completion of a comprehensive review of applications, the Commission will award pre-approval, or stage one approval, for a maximum of 15 grower licenses, an unlimited number of processor licenses and up to two dispensaries per each of the state’s senatorial districts. Each applicant issued a stage one license approval will have 365 days from the date of notification to complete all necessary steps to obtain a formal license and to request final inspection by the Commission. These steps could include raising capital, acquiring real estate, securing local zoning approvals, construction of facilities, installation of equipment and systems and the hiring and training of staff.

Towson University's Regional Economic Studies Institute (RESI) assisted with developing application language and has been commissioned by MMCC to conduct the professional evaluation of applicants seeking licensure as medical cannabis growers, processors or dispensers within the state. RESI will process the applications that meet the mandatory qualifications criteria. RESI will then assign unique identifying numbers to each application and will separate each application into sections that will be evaluated by third-party evaluators who are subject matter experts.

Using the scores provided by the subject matter experts, RESI will aggregate the scores from each application, taking into account the weighting comprehensively outlined in the application. RESI will rank the applications based on these scores for the Commission to review. The Commission will make the final decision on issuing licenses.

The full terms of the scoring process are available on the grower, processor and dispenser applications.

### **About the Natalie M. LaPrade Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission**

The Natalie M. LaPrade Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission develops policies, procedures and regulations to implement programs that ensure medical cannabis is available to qualifying patients in a safe and effective manner. The Commission oversees all licensing, registration, inspection and testing measures pertaining to Maryland's medical cannabis program and provides relevant program information to patients, physicians, growers, dispensers, processors, testing laboratories and caregivers.

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