**MMCC Announces Medical Cannabis Diversity Regulations**

**MMCC unanimously approves emergency regulations to increase diversity in the Maryland medical cannabis industry**

On September 27, 2018, the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission (MMCC) voted and unanimously approved emergency regulations seeking to increase diversity among medical cannabis businesses in the State. The emergency regulations, which were developed pursuant to emergency legislation enacted during the 2018 Maryland General Assembly session, implement measures to encourage the inclusion of minority- and women-owned businesses in the medical cannabis industry.

The emergency regulations must be approved by the [Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR)](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmAELR.aspx?pid=aelrpage&stab=01&id=aex&tab=subject7&ys=2015RS) in order to take effect. A copy of the emergency regulations may be viewed here.

The MMCC anticipates releasing a draft application for medical cannabis growers and processors in December 2018 and a final application in early 2019.

**Key Regulation Outcomes**:

1. Encourage minority and women business owners to apply for medical cannabis licenses through comprehensive education, outreach, and training.
2. Allocate 15 out of 100 total points on the forthcoming medical cannabis license application to diversity-related provisions.
3. Fifteen (15) points divided among three provisions (diversity plan, disadvantaged equity applicant, and economically disadvantaged areas)