



MARYLAND
MMCC

Natalie M. LaPrade
Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission

Contact:

Dave Curley | Harry Hammel
Sandy Hillman Communications
dcurley@hillmanpr.com | hhammel@hillmanpr.com
410.616.8951 | 443.880.8877

Natalie M. LaPrade Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission Receives Nearly 900 Grower, Processor and Dispensary License Applications

BALTIMORE (Nov. 12, 2015) – The Natalie M. LaPrade Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission (MMCC) today announced it received 882 applications seeking grower, processor and dispenser licenses by the November 6 submission deadline. The total figure – and the following breakdown of applications by license category – remain unofficial and subject to change until each submission is formally determined to be complete and otherwise meeting all eligibility criteria set forth by the Commission.

Of the 882 applications in the Commission’s preliminary count, the vast majority – 705—were submitted for dispenser licenses. A significant percentage of candidates applied for a dispensary license in each of the state’s senatorial districts, driving up the total for that license category. Despite this approach by applicants, regulations prohibit any candidate from receiving more than one dispensary license.

A total of 102 grower licenses were received by the Commission, as were 75 processor license applications.

“We couldn’t be more pleased by the tremendous response to the application process,” said Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission Executive Director Hannah Byron. “The number of applications received ensures the Commission will have a strong pool of qualified candidates to consider as the review process moves forward and that the state’s medical cannabis program will be self-funded as intended by the General Assembly.”

The applications represent every senatorial district in the state. Due to the volume of applications received, a district-by-district breakdown is not yet available. During the Stage One review process, those seeking grower and processor licenses were not required to specify the jurisdiction in which they propose operating.

Towson University's Regional Economic Studies Institute (RESI) has been commissioned by the MMCC to conduct the professional evaluation of applicants seeking licensure as medical cannabis growers, processors and dispensers within the state. RESI will process the applications that meet the mandatory qualifications criteria; its team will then assign unique identifying numbers to each application and 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.

"As we have stated previously, the medical cannabis program's rollout schedule ultimately would be determined by the number of license applications received by the Commission," Byron said. "In light of the exceptional response from license candidates, we will extend the application review period initially proposed and consult with RESI to modify the timeline accordingly. The Commission will provide an updated program schedule in the near future."

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.

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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