


COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

FROM: Phil Mendelson, Chairman 

DATE: March 31, 2022

RE: **Request to Place Measure on the Agenda for April 5, 2022 Legislative Meeting**

Please place the following measures on the agenda for the April 5, 2022 Legislative Meeting:

- **Medical Marijuana Patient Access Supplemental Extension and Civil Enforcement Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022**
- **Medical Marijuana Patient Access Supplemental Extension and Civil Enforcement Emergency Amendment Act of 2022**
- **Medical Marijuana Patient Access Supplemental Extension and Civil Enforcement Temporary Amendment Act of 2022**

On November 2, 2021, the Council approved Act 24-206, the Medical Marijuana Patient Access Emergency Amendment Act of 2021, in response to a significant drop in the number of registered, qualifying patients in the District's medical cannabis program. The Council extended the provisions of Act 24-206 and removed additional burdens for seniors in the District who need access to medical cannabis through the approval of Act 24-323 on February 18, 2022.

As the medical market continues to feel the effects of this decline and faces the continuing threat posed by illicit cannabis storefronts and delivery services, it is necessary to take additional steps to provide relief to legal businesses and patients. These include:

1. Extend the provisions of Act 24-323;
2. Allow self-certification of a qualifying medical condition for residents aged 21 and above until September 30, 2022; and
3. Provide the Mayor and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board with additional *civil* authority to close illegal cannabis businesses, issue fines, and take other measures to address these unlawful businesses. Civil enforcement activities would not begin until May 16, 2022 unless deemed necessary to protect residents and visitors from immediate harm.

Copies of the measures are attached. Please call me or Blaine Stum if you have any questions at (202) 724-8092.