

Arkansas Medical Marijuana Commission Minutes

Tuesday, June 30, 2020; 4:30 p.m.
1515 West Seventh Street, Little Rock, Arkansas
Video Conference Meeting
Streamed Via www.myarkansaspbs.org/arcan

Ronda Henry-Tillman
Travis W. Story
J.P. Mobley

Justin Smith
Kevin Russell

Chairwoman Tillman called the meeting to order. Commissioner Story made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 16th meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Russell and passed 5-0. At this point Commissioner Story addressed the Commission regarding the affidavits of bias that were filed requesting that he recuse from entertaining the expansion of the cultivation licenses from 6 to 8.

Before hearing from the member of the Arkansas General Assembly attending the meeting, Chairwoman Tillman and Commissioner Story explained the zoning map and the intent behind creating the zone. The desire was to create a more equal population zones and locate dispensaries closer to patients. Next the members of Arkansas General Assembly were invited to speak. Senator Sample addressed the Commission and spoke to his support for expanding the cultivation licenses and dispensary licenses to the maximum number allowed by the Amendment 98. Senator Chesterfield spoke to her support to open the licenses in order to allow the free market work to work as the prices are difficult for individuals to access the medical marijuana they need. She requested that the cultivation licenses be expanded to 8 and the dispensaries to 40 to make it more affordable. Senator Clark spoke to the numerous calls he has received by both sides and he appeared to speak on behalf of the patients. He shared concerns for the price that patients were having to pay. Senator Hester discussed the fact that none of his constituents have contacted him regarding a supply/price issue. He indicated that since there is no supply issue he was opposed to the expansion of the remaining licenses. Finally, Representative Les Warren believes in the free enterprise system and letting competition work things out in order to have the best prices. He encouraged the expansion of the remaining licenses.

At the conclusion of the members of the General Assembly speaking, Commissioner Smith made a motion to expand to two more cultivation facilities. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mobley. After discussion the motion carried 3-2. Commissioners Story and Russell voted against the motion. After a discussion Commissioner Story made a motion to add additional dispensary license in Zones 1 and 5. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Russell, but withdrawn by Commissioner Story after Chairwoman Tillman sought to make an amendment to the motion. Chairwoman Tillman made a motion to expand the dispensary licenses in Zones 1, 3 & 5, but withdrew the motion. Further discussion ensued regarding expanding the dispensary licenses. Commissioner Tillman made a motion to expand the dispensary's in Zones 1,2,3 & 5. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. It was carried 4-1. Commissioner Story voted against the motion.

Chairwoman Tillman set the next meeting for July 21, 2020. The meeting was adjourned.