



June 25, 2019

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ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT
SB 97/AB 97 (Committee on Budget) – Cannabis
As Amended June 20th, 2019 – **SUPPORT**
Assembly Third Reading File

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) supports the Cannabis Trailer Bills, AB 97/SB 97 (Committee on Budget). Specifically, we support allowing state licensing authorities to continue to issue provisional licenses to qualified applicants until 2022 and extending the CEQA exemption for local jurisdictions' cannabis programs until 2021. We do urge the state regulatory agencies, when implementing these provisions, to ensure for adequate local verification with cities and counties, including adequate demonstration that an operator's environmental review is underway as well as local permitting. Counties support the local equity grant program, which will provide needed resources to local jurisdictions to ensure for a balanced and fair regulatory structure in California. In addition, we are also pleased to support increased enforcement measures that authorize a licensing authority to issue a citation to an unlicensed entity for engaging in illegal cannabis activities.

These provisions are an important step to providing additional continuity to our state and local licensing system and providing for a fair and well-regulated market place. Specifically, this bill provides an extension of state provisional licenses and allows state and local jurisdictions additional time to process license applications as California continues to transition cannabis businesses into the regulated market. The proposed language will help to provide additional stability for our state and local cannabis licensing program, and allow local jurisdictions additional time to conduct the environmental review for applications at the local level. AB 97/SB 97 also allows for a concentrated and public enforcement effort to reduce the number of illegal retail cannabis operations that continue to operate throughout the state.

Local governments are partners with the state in implementing our cannabis laws. AB 97/SB 97 provides additional tools necessary to accomplish our mutual goals. We respectfully urge your support. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact Cara Martinson at 916-327-7500, ext. 504, or cmartinson@counties.org.

cc: Governor Gavin Newsom
Nicole Elliot, Senior Advisor on Cannabis, GO BIZ