



Carrington & Associates, LLC

*"Continuing A Tradition of Excellence"*

## **HB 706 Medical Cannabis – Dispensary Grower–Processor License– SUPPORT**

Carrington & Associates, LLC SUPPORTS HB706. This bill establishes a new dispensary grower-processor license category within the State’s medical cannabis program that authorizes a licensee to grow, process, and dispense medical cannabis on the same premises. The bill establishes procedures for applying for, evaluating, and issuing the licenses, as well as reporting requirements for licensees, and makes conforming changes to the current statutory framework for the State’s medical cannabis program. Among other things, only licensed dispensaries are eligible for the new license and the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission must grant Stage One preapproval to all applications that score within the top 50th percentile of the license application evaluation process.

This bill addresses a problem created by the legislature in 2018 medical cannabis bill that allowed large, multi-state operators to own up to 4 dispensaries in the state. This has left the remaining, small, independent dispensaries with limited access to the products that need for their patients. This bill will allow for these regulated entities, that have been vetted by the state, to be able to grow and process cannabis. It is universally accepted, even by the opponents of this bill, that vertical integration for medical cannabis is the most logical way of running the industry. Most of the small, independent dispensaries are women and minority-owned enterprises. Without this legislation, many of these businesses will either go out of business or be acquired by one of the larger monopolies the 2018 medical cannabis legislation created. This is matter of fairness and fidelity to our free market principals.

For these reasons, Carrington & Associates, LLC enthusiastically supports HB706 and asks for your FAVORABLE report.