

HB441 Favorable with Amendments
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I support HB441 with amendments.

Community service in lieu of fines should be set equivalent to the minimum wage. The 75 hours for a \$250 fine works out to \$3/hr. The 50 hour requirement for \$5000 fine is \$10/hr. 5-601.c.2.ii.1 (page 3 line 21) lists a civil fine of \$100 with no in lieu of.

People under 21 convicted of cannabis possession should be able to acquire a medical card in lieu of attending drug treatment. 5-601.c.2.ii.3 (page 3 line 25)

The civil fine of \$5000 for growing too many cannabis plants is not high enough to deter black market grows. At \$10/gram, the retail value of one outdoor pant is enough to cover that fine. \$5000 is also too large of a penalty for growing one plant over the personal limit. This is especially egregious because of the lack of allowance for immature plants. A civil cultivation limit of double the personal limit is requested.

The 2 plant limit was arbitrarily chosen without Senate debate and is a very ineffective method for limiting yield. CANMD had no objections to proposed 6 plant home grow limits. The personal cultivation limit should be canopy based to match the method for licensed cultivators. A canopy limit of 16 square feet would allow home cultivators to grow in a 4x4 tent. A canopy limit would not threaten the commercial market. A canopy limit would not penalize home growers for using regular seeds and risk growing male plants. The low volume of sales of cannabis seeds and clones should reassure the low risk of making this change.

Thank you,
Rusty Carr