



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

Marijuana Alert - March 2, 2022



Update for Craft Grow Bill from Politico

Applicants for “craft cultivation” cannabis licenses — many of which are minority-owned businesses — want the right to cultivate up to 14,000 square feet of land. But current state law says they must start at 5,000 square feet before ramping up to a larger canopy.

But the legislation has been stalled by opposition from established weed companies led by the Cannabis Business Association of Illinois.

Those businesses insist they're not worried about competition, noting that they can already have cultivation footprints of up to 210,000 square feet. Rather, they're concerned that the expanded canopy space could prove more attractive to multistate operators who want to buy up licenses from smaller entrepreneurs. CBAI says it supports allowing craft growers to expand to 14,000 square feet as long as they can be assured those licenses stay among diverse owners. **“The association does not support the new legislation**, as drafted, because it allows no discretion and affords no protections to ensure that the benefit of this proposal actually goes to the Black and Latinx businesses for whom this category of licenses was intended,” the organization said in a statement.

Craft cultivation license holders bristle at the suggestion that they're simply looking to sell out to big marijuana companies, rather than create their own successful cannabis businesses.

The lobbying fight over cultivation limits is just the latest drama in the rollout of Illinois' adult-use market. Licensing of new businesses has been stalled for months as legal fights play out in the courts. The delays have frustrated state officials and allowed established businesses to entrench their hold on the market.

For now, the bill is in a holding pattern while craft growers and the CBAI try to find a compromise. Until then, Castro is holding on to

the bill before trying to get it through a committee. The negotiations will have to pick up as the session adjourns April 8. If it doesn't get across the finish line before then, it could emerge again during the veto session later in the year. [Read](#)

Lawmaker's CBD enterprise forced to pay back \$144,000 to investors after state investigation

After regaling a crowd about the prospect of becoming "marijuana millionaires," state Sen. Patricia Van Pelt started Wakanna For Life, a multilevel marketing company that has since been the subject of multiple consumer complaints. The vast majority of those who paid to set up "dispensaries" through her company have made an average of just \$200. [Read](#)

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