
September 7, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2679 (Cooley, Bonta, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, Wood) Medical Marijuana: Regulation: Research Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

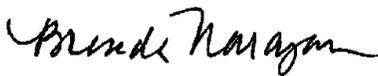
On behalf of MuniServices, I write to request your signature on AB 2679. For nearly 40 years MuniServices has partnered with many of the State's municipalities as a full-service provider of revenue enhancement services. MuniServices partners with cities and counties to develop comprehensive strategies to address the current medical marijuana environment, the future environment under the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA), and the possible legalization environment.

Until MCRSA licenses are issued in 2018, current medical cannabis manufacturers cannot operate legally, because they were not protected under the old "collective" model. AB 2679 sets new standards for medical cannabis manufacturers and provides protection from prosecution under state law to those entities which meet these rigorous standards.

Local governments have faced difficulty in differentiating between legitimate manufacturing operators and illegitimate ones, due to a lack of any clear standards for conduct. In these instances, the MCRSA requirement that licenses are first obtained at the local level, before applying for a state license, breaks down. The bill's requirement including Health and Safety Code 11362.775(b)(5) refers to other conditions set by the local government issuing the license, permit, or other authorization. We are pleased with the provision that "the collective or cooperative is in possession of a valid seller's permit issued by the State Board of Equalization." MuniServices' foremost concern is maintaining local control for licensing and zoning standards.

As a partner to local government, we have encouraged and supported legislative and regulatory tools for revenue enhancement and protection. AB 2679 addresses this issue and imposes professional standards that will only be attainable by the legitimate operators who will be seeking a state license under MCRSA. With this change, there is more clarity for local governments. MuniServices is proud to support AB 2679 and requests your signature on this measure.

Respectfully,



Brenda Narayan
Director of Government Relations
916.261.5147 / Brenda.Narayan@MuniServices.com

cc: Graciela Castillo-Krings, Deputy Legislative Secretary
The Honorable Ken Cooley, California State Assembly
The Honorable Rob Bonta, California State Assembly
The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr., California State Assembly
The Honorable Tom Lackey, California State Assembly
The Honorable Jim Wood, California State Assembly