



## Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

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September 23, 2015

Attention: Local Authority

RE: Senate Bill 5052 and House Bill 2136

As you know, Senate Bill 5052 tasked the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB) to reopen licensing for retail marijuana businesses. The WSLCB will begin accepting new applications for retail licenses October 12, 2015. At this time, the Board will not be limiting the number of licensed retail stores; however we may consider limits in the future. We understand that some of your member cities may be concerned about density and other issues related to the number of potential retail marijuana licensees. Local authorities may choose to make rules or ordinances to address these concerns. We encourage cities and counties who are planning to make rules or ordinances regarding retail marijuana stores to do so before the WSLCB begins processing applications in October so that entities who are applying for licenses are clear about what the rules are in their area before they apply.

House Bill 2136 allows local authorities to permit the licensing of premises within 1,000 feet but not less than one hundred feet of a restricted entity by enacting an ordinance authorizing such distance reduction. Cities may now choose to adopt buffer zones that are less than one thousand feet from places like parks, transit centers, and childcare facilities. House Bill 2136 provides the following caveats:

- Elementary/secondary schools and playgrounds must remain 1000 feet from licensed premises.
- City and county distance reductions cannot negatively impact the jurisdiction's civil regulatory enforcement, criminal law enforcement interests, public safety, or public health.
- A local authority ordinance permitting the licensing of a location within 1,000 feet of a restricted entity may require the applicant to notify the restricted entity the applicant's intent to open.

As we begin accepting new applications, the WSLCB will be reaching out to local authorities to confirm if they have made any changes to the buffer zones in their areas.

For more information about SB 5052 and HB 2136, please see the attached fact sheets.

Thank you for your continued partnership with the WSLCB as we begin this new chapter in legalized marijuana.

Sincerely,

Becky Smith  
Director of Licensing and Regulation