

OCM 2025 Legislative Recommendations: Policy Proposals

The Office of Cannabis Management (OCM), established in August 2023 following the enactment of HF 100, is charged with implementing the operational and regulatory systems to oversee the adult-use cannabis and medical cannabis industries, and hemp derived cannabinoid programs in Minnesota.

Focused on developing the foundation for a well-regulated, safe, equitable, and sustained cannabis market, OCM has identified opportunities to build consistency and clarity to support an effective implementation of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 342.

HF1672 (Reyer; Stephenson) / SF2371 (Dibble) - Improving Access and Protections for Medical Cannabis Patients

OCM proposes a series of minor changes to the medical cannabis program to improve both access and protections for medical cannabis patients and caregivers, add consistency in definitions in allowed activities for caregivers, and expand access for tribal medical patients under the new licensing framework to avoid significant disruption in their current access to the state's medical program. The proposed changes:

- Clarify an employee's role in distributing medical cannabis. The current requirements in section 342.51 are inconsistent with the requirements outlined in section 152.29. Updating the requirements ensures access to a remote option for patients seeking consultation and will allow for more cannabis businesses to participate in the medical program, particularly in rural areas.
- Strengthen protections for medical cannabis patients, preventing discrimination for medical cannabis patients when it comes to housing, employment, or educational opportunities among other things.
- Align existing statute with new policies implemented last session to clarify that medical cannabis caregivers may be designated by their patient to grow cannabis plants on their behalf and provide clearer expectations for allowable activities.
- Maintain Tribal reciprocity for medical patients to purchase medical products off Tribal lands at state licensed medical dispensaries, eliminating a disruption in access as the program prepares to transition to the new licensing framework.