

To: General Government Committee
From: John Haschak, Chair
Date: June 21, 2023
Re: Renewals of Cannabis Licenses

Efforts have been made to streamline Ordinance 10A.17. A second round of changes are forecasted to take place this summer. One item which needs to be reconsidered is the annual renewal of permits. If a permit is in good standing and isn't a change in size or type, the renewal period should be increased to every 3 or 5 years.

Currently, applications for cannabis cultivation need to be renewed annually as stated in 10A.17.090 (see below). When the permit is in good standing and has not changed in size or type, this renewal process is an unnecessary bureaucratic step. One solution would be that permits in good standing be required the minimal amount of review and that the renewal take place every 3 or 5 years. This would decrease the amount fees paid by the cultivator, decrease the time and staffing required of staff, and allow the Mendocino Cannabis Department to focus on more pressing issues.

There are notations in 10A.17 in various sections referring to annual renewals. 10A.17.070(H)(1), 10A.17.090 and others.

Direction should be given to staff to find applicable references and change these as needed to streamline the ordinance. This could be done in coordination with the Phase 2 of edits to the ordinance which is forecasted to take place later this summer.

Sec. 10A.17.090 - Cultivation Permit Application and Zoning Review.

modified

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Any person or entity that wishes to engage in the cultivation of cannabis shall submit an application for a Permit to the Department. Applications for Permits shall be made upon such forms and accompanied by such plans and documents as may be prescribed by the Department. The application shall be reviewed by the Department and other agencies as described herein and renewed annually.