



Legislative Department  
Seattle City Council  
Memorandum

Date: August 11, 2014

To: Councilmember Nick Licata, Chair  
Councilmember Jean Godden, Vice-chair  
Council President Tim Burgess, Member  
Finance and Culture Committee

From: Rebecca Herzfeld, Council Central Staff

**Subject: Council Bill 118147 regarding extension of the deadline for existing lots, businesses, and dwelling units to comply with restrictions on major marijuana activities**

**Background**

On October 7, 2013, the City Council adopted Ordinance 124326, which established regulations in the Land Use Code for “major marijuana activities”. This ordinance set a deadline of January 1, 2015 for major marijuana activities existing at the time the ordinance went into effect (November 16, 2013) to comply with the locational restrictions and obtain a state license issued under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Title 69. New major marijuana activities beginning after November 16, 2013 are required to comply with the law immediately.

Council Bill (C.B.) 118147 would extend the deadline adopted in Ordinance 124326. The intent of the January 1, 2015 deadline was to provide time for implementation of medical marijuana regulations adopted by the State during the 2014 legislative session. It also allowed time to evaluate the initial implementation of State Initiative 502 (I-502), which legalized recreational marijuana. Because the State did not adopt medical marijuana regulations in 2014, and because there will not be adequate time to evaluate I-502 implementation in Seattle, C.B. 118147 would extend the original deadline by six months, to July 1, 2015.

The Finance and Culture Committee held a public hearing on C.B. 118147 on July 23, 2014, and discussed the bill at the same meeting.

**Proposed amendment to the deadline in C.B. 118147**

Committee Chair Licata is proposing to amend the deadline for compliance with Seattle’s regulations. His amendment would provide two alternative deadlines, based on potential action by the State legislature. The first option would continue to be July 1, 2015. The second option would extend the deadline to January 1, 2016, but only if State legislation is adopted before July 1, 2015 that amends the medical marijuana chapter of the Revised Code of Washington.

The proposed revision to the deadline is shown below, with new language underlined and deleted language ~~crossed out~~.

Section 2. Lots, business establishments, and dwelling units where the production, processing, selling, or delivery of marijuana was being conducted prior to November 16, 2013 must come into compliance with Seattle Municipal Code Section 23.42.058 ~~no~~ by the later than July 1, 2015 of the following dates:

A. July 1, 2015; or

B. January 1, 2016 if the Washington Legislature adopts and the Governor signs legislation amending RCW Chapter 69.51A after July 1, 2014 and before July 1, 2015, or if all other actions necessary under Article III, Section 12 of the Washington Constitution for legislation amending RCW Chapter 69.51A to take effect in 2015 occur after July 1, 2014 and before July 1, 2015.

**Committee decision on proposed deadline amendment:**

**Committee decision on C.B. 118147:**

### **Next Steps**

If the Committee approves C.B. 118147, the bill would be ready for a full Council vote on September 2, 2014, which is the first meeting of the full Council after the August recess.