

# Department of Finance and Administration

## Legislative Impact Statement

**Bill: SB254**

**Amendment Number: S1**

**Bill Subtitle: TO AMEND ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENT 98, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "ARKANSAS MEDICAL MARIJUANA AMENDMENT OF 2016" TO REPEAL THE PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE ABILITY OF A DISPENSARY TO GROW MARIJUANA.**

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### **Basic Change :**

**Sponsor: Senator Standridge**

Senate Amendment 1 --- The Amendment deletes the original proposed language of the bill following the enacting clause in its entirety and would amend the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment of 2016 to provide that the authority for a dispensary to grow marijuana would be placed with the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Commission. The Commission could provide the authority to a dispensary if it determines that the ability to grow or possess marijuana plants is in the best interest of the citizens of Arkansas and the medical marijuana industry within Arkansas. A dispensary with this authority could contract with a cultivation facility to grow marijuana for the dispensary.

Original Bill --- The bill would amend the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment of 2016 to repeal the provision that would allow dispensaries to grow marijuana.

### **Revenue Impact :**

None.

### **Taxpayer Impact :**

A holder of dispensary license could request authority from the Commission to allow the dispensary to grow medical marijuana.

### **Resources Required :**

None.

### **Time Required :**

None.

### **Procedural Changes :**

None.

### **Other Comments :**

None.

### **Legal Analysis :**

Under the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment of 2016 ("Amendment") a dispensary may grow or possess up to 50 mature marijuana plants. Instead of totally eliminating a dispensary's ability to grow marijuana as originally proposed in SB254, this amendment allows the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Commission ("AMMC") to authorize dispensaries to grow up to 50 plants if it is in the best interest of the citizens of Arkansas and the industry within Arkansas. The maximum that the Commission could approve would still be limited to "50 mature marijuana plants".