Dr. LaShae Sharp- Collins
79th Assembly District

AB 1965: Standardized Cannabis Testing

SUMMARY

AB 1965 strengthens cannabis product testing, ensuring consumer safety and market transparency. This bill addresses documented testing fraud in the cannabis market and the rising health concerns by implementing stronger oversight, enforcement capabilities, and transparency measures.

BACKGROUND

Currently, California mandates that cannabis products undergo testing by state-licensed testing labs to ensure product safety.

Recent investigations, including those by the Department of Cannabis Control and the Los Angeles Times, have seen failures in the mandated testing process with some reports showing companies intentionally rigging the testing by pre-selecting products to send for what is supposed to be randomized testing. These testing irregularities are found in all forms of cannabis products and provide serious health risks.

The testing failures include[1]:

- **Pesticide Usage -** When the Los Angeles Times tested for pesticides in retail cannabis, 25 of the 42 products had higher concentrations then the state allows.
- **THC Inflation -** A sample of 150 randomly chosen products found that 87% had inaccurately high tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) potency labels after retesting. Higher THC products tend to be more expensive. When products are inflated, consumers end up paying more for an inferior product.
- **Contaminants** – Findings have revealed contamination such as heavy metals in cannabis products, particularly vapes. This can travel through the lungs and other internal organs causing serious medical concerns.

THIS BILL

AB 1965 grants DCC authority for performance testing to ensure a variety of testing methods are utilized effectively, improves transparency in product labeling, enhances accountability in distribution, and expands their recall authority.

AB 1965 protects consumers' health and protects the integrity of California's legal cannabis industry. The legal market has a responsibility to keep its consumers' safe and promote accurate information.

SUPPORT

California Cannabis Operators Association (CACOA)
California NORML

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[1] Halperin, A., & St, P. (2024, June 14). *The dirty, dangerous secret of California's legal weed*. Los Angeles Times. Retrieved February 20, 2026, from https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-06-14/the-dirty-secret-of-californias-legal-weed