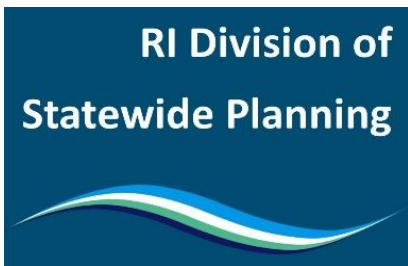


2019 Snapshot

Municipal Regulations of Medical Marijuana in RI

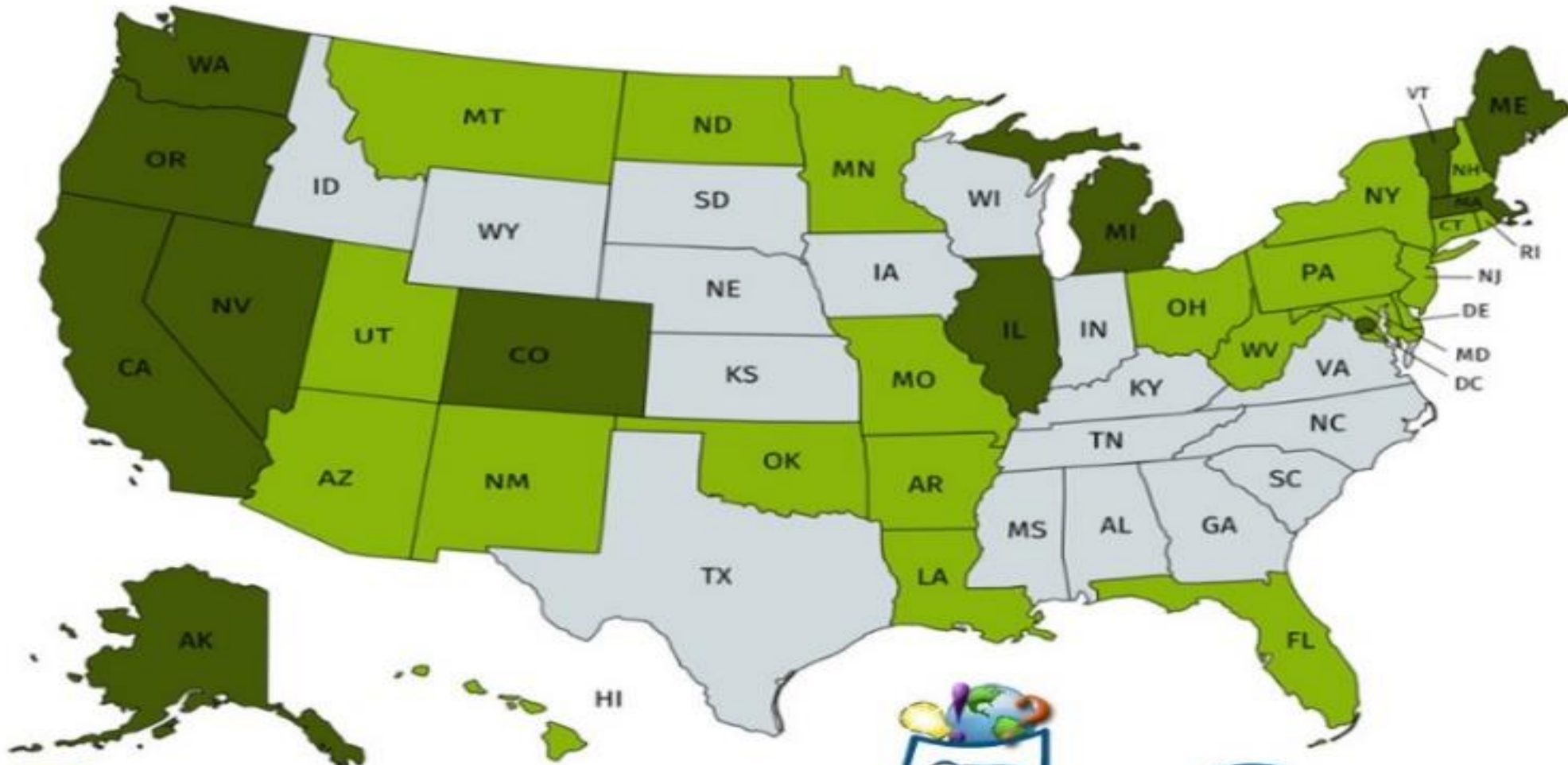
Paul Gonsalves, Principal Planner





Status of Marijuana Across the Nation

- At Fed level, Marijuana is Schedule 1 drug
- Medical Marijuana allowed in 33 states + D.C.
- Recreational Marijuana legalized in 11 states + D.C.
- Marijuana Possession* for Personal Use
Decriminalized in 26 states + D.C.

33 Legal Medical Marijuana States & DC 11 Legal Recreational Marijuana States & DC



 States with Legal Medical Marijuana
 States with Legal Medical & Recreational Marijuana



National History of Medicinal Marijuana

- California was first in 1996
- Alaska, Oregon, & Washington state in 1998
- Maine was first New England State in 1999
- Between 2000-2009, eight states passed MM laws
- From 2010 to 2019, the remaining 20 states (+D.C.)
passed MM laws

Rhode Island's Medical Marijuana Act - Highlights

- The Edward O. Hawkins and Thomas C. Slater Medical Marijuana Act - passed in 2006
- Patients with qualifying ailments can grow up to 24 plants (12 mature) (caregivers are allowed as well). (Program through RI DOH)
- Plants must have “tags” from RI DBR (\$25 each)
- In 2009, law was amended to allow dispensaries known as “Compassion Centers” (not-for-profit)
- “Cooperative & Licensed Cultivations” are allowed

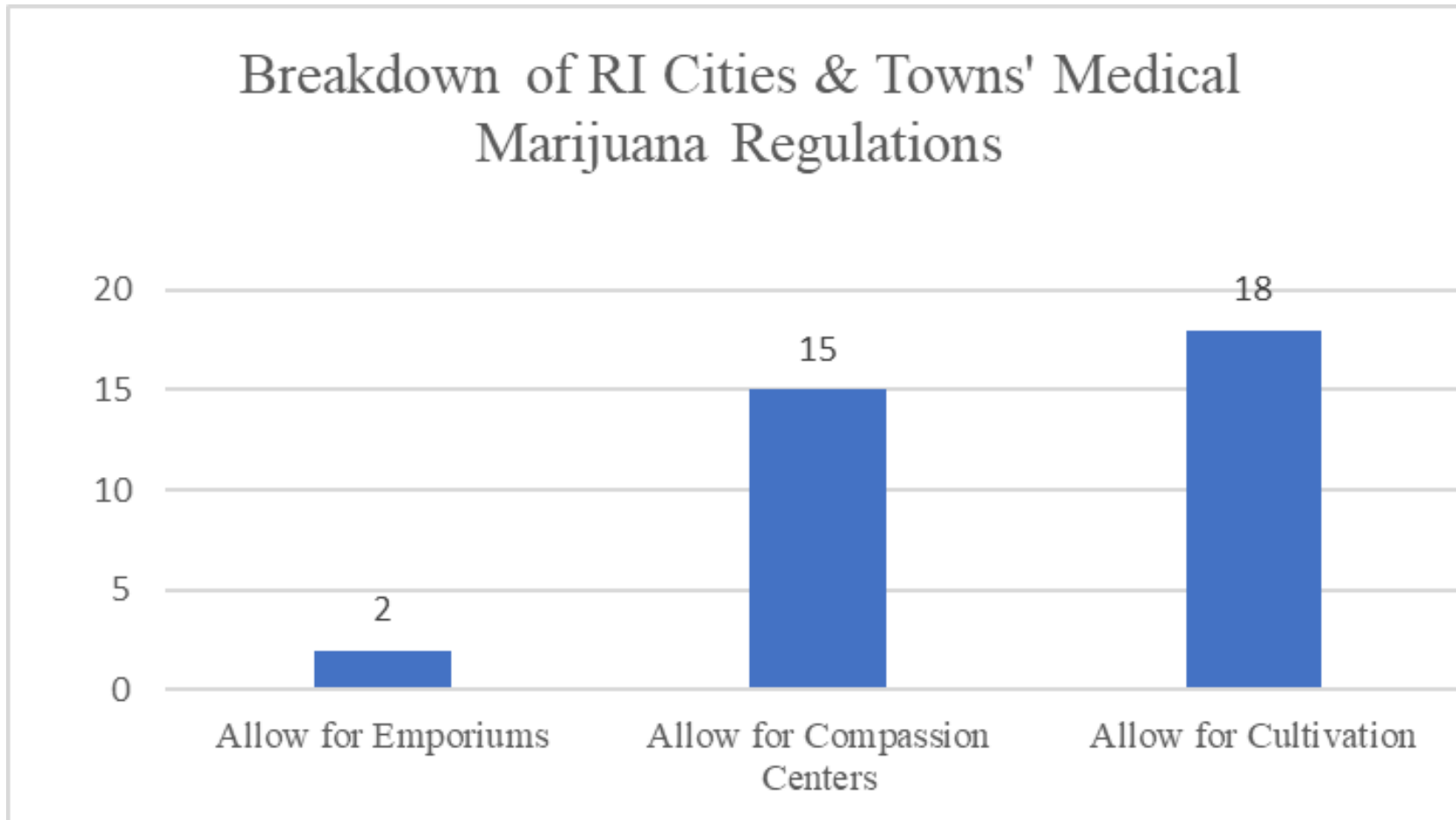
Rhode Island's Medical Marijuana Act - Highlights

- **First Compassion Center location opened on 4/19/13 in Providence**
- **Currently, 3 Compassion Centers operate in Providence, Warwick and Portsmouth**
- **The law was amended in 2019 to allow for 6 additional compassion centers**
- **2019 changes also includes ban on “Emporiums” and an increase in compassion centers license fees from \$250,000 to \$500,000.**

What does this all mean for RI Municipalities??

- Information re: local regulation of medical marijuana regulations was obtained primarily through (1)municipal codes online, (2)municipal planners, (3)news articles from local media
- As of July 2019, 28 out of 39 municipalities have addressed the issue in some fashion
- 11 Municipalities: No regulations identified

What does this all mean for RI Municipalities?? (Click [HERE](#) for complete list)



How do RI Municipalities regulate MM??

- Zoning regulations for (1) Compassion Centers, (2) Cultivation Centers, and (3) Emporiums(now banned) vary from municipality to municipality
- Several municipalities simply list the 3 uses in their Use Tables
- Most municipalities who address MM only address it in the context of the above 3 uses, not personal cultivation
- Several municipalities allow Compassion Centers only, by SUP in very few zones (Manufacturing/Industrial)

How do RI Municipalities regulate MM??

- Some municipalities ONLY offer Definitions of marijuana-related terms (placeholder for future regulations?)
- Regulating “Licensed Cultivators” is tricky, as operators like to have their locations remain anonymous. (Can ONLY sell directly to Compassion Centers)
- According to DBR, 79 approved applications- 11 cultivators were given licenses in 2018, and 37 in 2019 (48 Total in RI)
- A few regulations mention marijuana “extracts”, which is causing some growing concern across the nation

What's next in MM Regulation in RI??

- Home delivery for MM card holders?
- Enhanced state requirements for quality testing?
- Legalizing Recreational use?

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