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TO: Senator Craig Hickman, Chair
Representative Laura Supica, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Senator Joseph Baldacci, Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Cannabis Advisory Commission Staff

DATE: January 23, 2024

SUBJ: Cannabis Advisory Commission annual report pursuant to Title 28-B, section 903, subsection 5

Maine Revised Statute, title 28-B, section 903, subsection 5 requires the Cannabis Advisory Commission ("commission") to file an annual report, by January 15 of each year, to the joint standing committees with jurisdiction over health and human services matters and adult use cannabis matters. For the reasons stated below, the commission did not meet in 2023 and this memo is submitted in place of the annual report.

1. During the First Special Session of the 131st Legislature, the Legislature passed LD 355, An Act to Eliminate the Cannabis Advisory Commission. This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table with a deappropriation of $2,250 in each of fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

2. Since January 28, 2023, three commission seats have been vacant, the seat representing the medical cannabis industry, the seat representing the adult use cannabis industry, the seat for an individual with demonstrated expertise and credentials in public health policy. Although each member of the commission provides an important expertise and information, these three seats are essential to the effective functioning of the commission.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the commission clerk, Lynne Caswell, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis.

cc.   Members, Cannabis Advisory Commission
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
Danielle Fox, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis