

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Amendment 64 Implementation Task Force**

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### **Amendment 64 Implementation Task Force presents its report to Colorado Governor, General Assembly and Attorney General Proposes How to Regulate Marijuana in Colorado**

**Denver – Wednesday, March 13, 2013** – The Amendment 64 Implementation Task Force, comprised of representatives from state and local government, the legal community, the medical profession, the marijuana industry, marijuana consumers and Colorado's employers and employees, released its 165-page report today containing details of 58 policy recommendations for the regulation of marijuana in Colorado. Gov. John Hickenlooper charged the Task Force in December with "finding practical and pragmatic solutions to the policy, legal and procedural issues" involved in moving forward with the state's new constitutional amendment, which voters approved in November. Task Force Co-Chairs Jack Finlaw, the Governor's Chief Legal Counsel, and Barbara Brohl, the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Revenue, announced the recommendations today.

"This is a very comprehensive report, developed in a rapid timeframe, that lays the groundwork for the establishment of a robust regulatory framework, with adequate funding for marijuana industry oversight and enforcement, consumer protection and prevention and treatment programs for young people," said Finlaw.

"The Task Force recommendations will now need to be perfected through the legislative process and rulemakings by various state agencies," Finlaw added.

"This was ground-breaking work and the Task Force process went very well," Brohl said. "It was supported by many committed and astute individuals who took the Governor's charge very seriously. Task force members represented differing viewpoints, they addressed all issues in a well-thought-out manner and worked hard to develop sound solutions. The Task Force did all the 'heavy lifting,' but now a lot of follow up work has to be done in the coming months."

In brief, the Task Force's major recommendations include the following:

- The adult-use marijuana industry should be required to have common ownership from seed to sale. This vertical integration regulatory model means that cultivation, processing and manufacturing, and retail sales must be under common ownership.
- During the first year of licensing, only entities with valid medical marijuana licenses should be able to obtain licenses to grow, process and sell adult-use cannabis.
- A new Marijuana Enforcement Division in the Department of Revenue would be funded by General Fund revenue for the next five years and would provide the necessary regulatory oversight of all marijuana industries in Colorado.
- Refer a ballot initiative to voters this November for a 15% excise tax, with the first \$40 million of excise tax proceeds going to the state's school construction fund as outlined in Amendment 64, and a "marijuana sales tax" to create funding sources to cover the costs of regulating the industry, implementing consumer safeguards and establishing youth prevention and treatment programs.

(more)

- Only Colorado residents should be allowed to hold licenses to grow, process and sell adult-use cannabis. But sales to both residents and visitors to the state should be permitted, with stricter quantity limits for visitors.
- All types of marijuana sold from adult use cannabis retail facilities should be in child-proof packaging and have warning labels that detail tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) potency and list all pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and solvents used in cultivation or processing.

The complete report is available on the Amendment 64 Web site,  
[www.Colorado.gov/revenue/amendment64](http://www.Colorado.gov/revenue/amendment64)

For further information, an executive summary of the report is available in the Task Force Report along with background information on the establishment of the Task Force, listings of Task Force and Working Group members, the text of the amendment and a comprehensive listing of all issues considered by the Working Groups. Task Force members were appointed by the Governor. Working Group members submitted applications to the Task Force Co-Chairs and were selected on the basis of their subject matter expertise.

The Working Groups met separately from the Task Force. Members of the public were invited to provide testimony in person during Working Group and Task Force meetings and through email. The Working Groups brought their recommendations to the Task Force where the recommendations were considered, discussed and, in some cases, amended at Task Force meetings before finalized.

Today's report concludes the responsibilities of the Task Force as assigned by the Governor. However, several members of the Task Force and Working Group may be asked to provide their expertise and insight as Colorado implements marijuana use by adults age 21 and older. The General Assembly must adopt implementing legislation before it adjourns in May and the Department of Revenue must adopt regulations for the marijuana industry by July 1, 2013. By October 1, 2013, the department must begin accepting, reviewing and processing license applications for growers, producers and retailers and must begin issuing licenses January 1, 2014.

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