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On January 17, 2017, Pennsylvania's Department of Health ("DOH") released applications for the medical cannabis grower/processor ("G/P") and dispensary licenses first phase ("Phase I"). Although Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana Act allows for 25 G/P and 50 dispensary licenses, Phase 1 only encompasses 12 G/P and 27 dispensary permits award and no time-line has been determined for Phase 2.

Phase 1 implementation is broken down into 6 statewide regions ("Region") and license awarding is limited to 2 G/P permits and a specific number of dispensaries per Region. If determining insufficient qualified candidates, DOH is not required to issue two G/P permits per region.

Fees

G/P permit application fee is \$10,000 and permit fee is \$200,000. Dispensary permit application fee is \$5,000 and permit fee is \$30,000 per location (applicants can have up to 3 or \$90,000). If applicant is not issued a permit, permit fees will be returned.

Submission

Both G/P and dispensary Application have sections allowing for up to 5,000 words written answer allow but for community impact section letters of recommendation or support will not be considered.

Applications will be accepted by mailing a single USB or external hard drive, CD-ROM, or DVD with completed materials and fees to DOH from February 20th to March 20th.

DOH anticipates receiving 900 total applications and needing 90 days to evaluate

Application Evaluation

DOH's selection committee will evaluate each application based on weighted scoring of up to 1,000 total points based on components including applicant's identification and facility information, diversity plan, background information, plan of operation, organization, ownership, capital and tax status, and community impact. "Diversity" and "Community Impact" sections account for 200 of 1000 possible points.

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While unclear whom will comprise the “selection committee”, to avoid conflict of interests, the DOH has been walling off communications between its staff and potential applicants, and those representing potential applicants.

Find grower/processor permit application forms, and instructions here:
http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/M-P/MedicalMarijuana/Pages/Growers-Processors.aspx#.WIpAV_krI2w

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