



PITTSBURGH IS THE PLACE TO BE

Any lawmaker who still harbors antiquated ideas about Pennsylvania's multifamily industry should visit Pittsburgh. The city is a showcase for today's apartment living and its importance to the Commonwealth. An article in [Triblive](#) notes many young renters settle in places where they can choose renting for convenience, affordability, and flexibility. Pennsylvania's apartment industry contributes over 28 billion dollars annually to the state's economy. Harrisburg, take note. No community can be strong without it.

Medical Marijuana Could Be High Priority in the Pennsylvania Legislature

SB 1182, known as the Medical Cannabis Act, would create regulatory oversight for the growing, processing, dispensing, and use of medical marijuana. The current version of the bill (printer number 2221) would specifically prohibit landlords from refusing to lease or otherwise penalize patients solely for having medical access cards or using medical cannabis, unless the landlord would lose a monetary or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulation. While federal fair housing laws regarding controlled substances would work in favor of rental owners, we must continue our talks with state legislators about this bill because of the potential for problems.

Pennsylvania Senate Bill 1182 has developed substantial bipartisan support, and was unanimously voted out of the Senate Law and Justice Committee in June. It is also receiving widespread favorable reporting in the media, and advocates have spent the summer drumming up support from liberals and conservatives alike. While the bill may not reach the finish line for a final vote in the Senate during the few remaining session days that follow the summer break, the great interest in the issue is sure to carry over to the new legislative session that starts in January.

Although federal fair housing laws require reasonable accommodations for rental residents with disabilities in order to protect their full use and enjoyment of the premises, it excludes accommodating current use of controlled substances. And marijuana is still a controlled substance under federal law. While the area of law is still a bit up in the air and owners are urged to consult their own attorneys, housing providers in other states who have medical marijuana laws have been able to continue to prohibit residents from smoking marijuana.

State Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi (R-Delaware) has been quoted as saying SB 1182 is still under discussion for potential amendments. But the tide seems to be shifting toward medical marijuana use in Pennsylvania's near future.

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