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Recall

State adopts procedures for cannabis recall

By Bob Young
staff reporter

The state Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) adopted an emergency rule Wednesday allowing it to recall legal pot products considered a public health risk.

Washington regulators have not had a recall process in place, unlike Colorado where recalls have been frequent. The city of [Denver pulled 19 pot products](#) from the market in a recent 19-week stretch.

The new rule takes immediate effect, but it may be revised after public feedback.

It gives the LCB authority to recall products deemed to be a risk and establishes procedures for a recall.

Risk is not defined by the rule. Factors that may contribute to a recall include evidence that unapproved pesticides were used on, or are present on, pot plants.

The rule also allows recalls based on “evidence of another condition that poses a risk to public health or safety.”

Washington has approved a [long list of pesticides](#) for the pot industry. The state hasn’t mandated pesticide testing because it’s expensive and complicated.

The state is not adopting a zero-tolerance policy, LCB spokesman Brian Smith said.

“If a product tests very high for an unapproved pesticide,

“If a product tests very high for an unapproved pesticide, that will certainly increase the odds of recall.”

Brian Smith

that will certainly increase the odds of recall. In the end, we may have to defend any potential recall action so a level of reasonableness will factor,” Smith said.

Much remains unknown about the health impact of pesticides on pot because research that’s abundant for pesticides on foods is lacking when it comes to what happens when you heat and inhale such chemicals.

Licensed businesses, such as retail shops, may initiate a recall by notifying the LCB and pulling products from shelves.

Businesses whose products are recalled must notify retailers and consumers via news release or other public notice. They must also have procedures for isolating recalled products and minimizing their distribution for sale.

The LCB may also seize and destroy recalled products.

Four licensed pot growers have been fined or had their licenses suspended in the last

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From the reshaping of the river in favor of industry to the massive dumping of industrial waste, the Duwamish Waterway is one of the most environmentally controversial areas within the city limits. Shopping cards and contaminated sludge are present at several locations along the river. (James Friel / The Seattle Times)

Cleaning Up: Steps to Ridding Duwamish River of Pollution

By Craig Welch staff reporter

For a century, we have straightened, poisoned, dug, soiled, filled and recontaminated the Duwamish River, the freshwater corridor that transformed Seattle into a major port city.

We buried old trucks and tossed in piles of oil-soaked tires. We dumped carcinogenic lubricants and coolants down drains and let solvents seep deep into its muddy bottom.

But this week — after 14 years of research and planning — the federal government unveiled a final \$342 million cleanup plan that officials insist should rid the beleaguered waterway of 90 per-

cent of its pollution.

The full effort will take nearly two decades, with costs borne by Boeing, King County, and the city of Seattle and the Port of Seattle.

But Obama administration officials said the results will allow residents of South Park to safely eat more food from the river, while letting tugs and other businesses still work the Duwamish as an industrial waterway.

“I think we’re delivering a plan that is as aggressive a plan as can be done,” said Dennis McLarren, regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which oversees the Duwamish cleanup.

“This is a carefully thought through, technically sound approach that we believe will leave us with the cleanest possible river we can get,” he said.

The EPA will require 105 acres of river bottom to be dug up, removing nearly 1 million more cubic yards of polluted earth to landfills.

Two dozen other acres of contaminated river bottom will be capped beneath several feet of rock, sand and carbon, while other, less-damaged areas will be covered with less than a foot of new earth and mud.

Time and the river’s natural tendency to push fresh sediment downstream from above will be used to restore an-

other 235 acres.

Timing of restoration work will be flexible to allow businesses to continue operations.

Some early projects costing roughly \$150 million have been under way for years, and are expected already next year to reduce by half one of the river’s more menacing pollutants — polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), chemicals once found in everything from hydraulic fluids to lighting fixtures.

But PCBs, which are damaging to internal organs and can work their way up the marine food chain to creatures eaten

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Discriminate, Suspend, Expell

Discrimination in the Seattle school district sends many students on

the path to expulsion

By Kate Hester independent reporter



Genesee Hill Elementary teacher Emma Klein speaks at Seattle Public Schools’ Eliminating Opportunity Gaps (EOG) Institute at Chief Sealth High School last October. The EOG Institute serves as a training, sharing and brainstorming school for creating strategies for racial justice. (Mike Siegel/The Seattle Times)

Last year, Washington Appleseed, a nonprofit social-justice group, failed in a quest to tally up even the total number of students suspended and expelled from Washington schools each year.

But with better data from the state this year, the group last week published a much fuller picture, showing the depth of disproportionate discipline in nine school districts, which affects not just students of color but also those in special-education programs, and those from low-income families and in foster care.

In Seattle, for example, the data suggest black students were suspended and expelled at

five times the rate of white students in the 2012-13 school year. And in Bellevue, by Appleseed’s count, special-education students are disciplined three times more often than the average student.

The data also cast doubt on the view that all suspended students are bad kids, said Katie Mosehauer, Appleseed’s executive director.

About half the time, she said, schools list the reason for a suspension or expulsion as “other,” meaning it didn’t fall into one of the categories that districts are required to report, such as bullying, fighting, using drugs and bringing a weapon to school.

“There is this pervasive view that these kids are dangerous,” she said. “That’s not what the data tells us.”

Appleseed warns against drawing too many conclusions from comparing the nine districts, saying it used preliminary numbers from the state that could contain errors, and because districts vary in how they report the information.

In tallying how many days student miss due to suspensions and expulsions, for example, Federal Way Public Schools counts all the days expelled students are absent, while other schools do not.

Despite those caveats, however, the analysis at the least raises questions, such as why the suspension rate for black students in Seattle is so high.

That might be one reason why the U.S. Department of Education is investigating whether the Seattle district is discriminating against blacks when it comes to discipline.

But Seattle is far from the only district with that pattern.

In Federal Way Public Schools, 16 percent of all black students were excluded from school for a day or more, according to Appleseed’s report, compared with 5 percent of white students and a little under 3 percent of Asians.

Yakima had the biggest overall percentage of suspensions and expulsions — about 13 percent of all students. In Seattle, the overall rate was a little under 6 percent.

Along with the Bellevue, Federal Way, Seattle and Yakima schools districts, Appleseed’s analysis covers Edmonds, Marysville, Olympia, Spokane and Tacoma.

Seattle Public Schools officials, due to spring break, were not available for comment. But they have said the number of suspensions in their schools is dropping.

In Federal Way, Deputy Superintendent Mark Davidson said Appleseed’s numbers mirror the district’s own data.

“We’ve known for years we have a problem,” he said.

The district is encouraging schools to adopt a program — Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) — that focuses on preventing the need for suspensions. A number of schools have started using it, and the district reports that some already are seeing big drops in problem behavior.

But district officials also intend to find other ways to reduce long-term suspensions, which Davidson said don’t accomplish much.

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