

Marijuana Cap – 1

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MonAM

State officials expect to add more medical marijuana dispensaries in order to meet growing demand. This week on Arkansas PBS, Scott Hardin, with Arkansas's Department of Finance and Administration, said state is near its legal cap of 40 licenses for dispensaries.

News20 0:16 "...number of dispensaries."

Hardin said Arkansas has some of the most restrictive laws regarding medical marijuana, especially in contrast to neighboring Oklahoma. According to data from the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority, the state has over 4-thousand licensed dispensaries. Increasing the number of dispensaries in Arkansas would require changes to state law.

Marijuana Cap – 2

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Medical marijuana, which has generated around \$50-million-dollars in revenue from taxes for Arkansas over the last two-and-a-half years, is poised to generate even more. On Arkansas PBS this week, Scott Hardin with the state's Department of Finance and Administration, said there aren't enough licensed dispensaries to meet demand.

News21 0:18 "...minutes from my home."

According to the Arkansas Department of Health, nearly 80-thousand Arkansans have the ID cards which are required to purchase medical marijuana. Most of the state's 37 active dispensaries are located near high population areas, like Little Rock or Fayetteville, leaving many rural patients without convenient access. The state expects to add two more dispensaries in southwest Arkansas early next year.