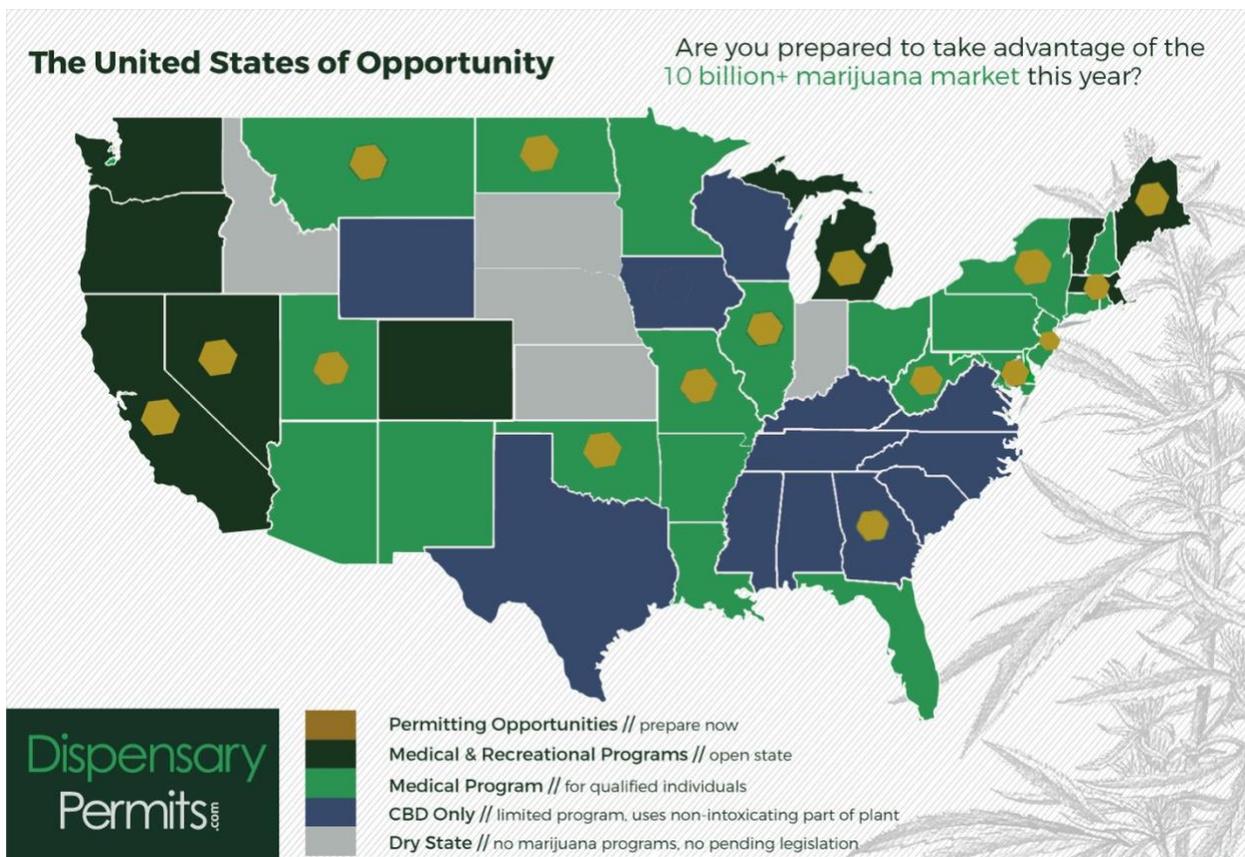


Marijuana Weekly Updates



February 11, 2019

IN THE NEWS

General Marijuana Industry Updates

Alabama

A debate regarding the legalization of medical marijuana took place in the Alabama Legislature on February 8, 2019. Testimonies were heard from parents of children with seizure disorders and state lawmakers in support of legalization. Rep. Anthony Daniels says the Democrat party plans to file a bill for medical marijuana legalization this legislative session.

Source: <https://www.cbs42.com/news/local/medicalmarijuana-debate-in-alabama-legislature/1763735236>

Arkansas

The state formally awarded 32 dispensary licenses to successful applicants on February 5, 2019. You can view a list of the new licensees here. The five licensed cultivation facilities are currently beginning operations and medical marijuana is expected to be available to supply the dispensaries as soon as April 2019.

Source: <https://mjbizdaily.com/arkansas-32-medical-marijuana-dispensary-licenses-april-sales-possible/>

North Dakota

A medical marijuana bill headed for a floor vote in the House would add physician assistants to the list of medical professionals who can certify patients for medical marijuana. The list currently includes physicians and advanced practice registered nurses. Another bill in the state legislature would help ease the concerns of doctors who must give their approval before patients can get state-approved medical marijuana cards. Medical marijuana advocates say finding doctors willing to certify patients has been a struggle.

Source: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/news/article/North-Dakota-bills-would-improve-medical-13603779.php>

Oregon

Senate Bill 582 that would create the possibility of Oregon exporting marijuana to adjacent states where cannabis is also legal had its first public hearing last week. U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams warned against the bill by telling The Associated Press that the bill does not change the fact that transporting marijuana across state lines is a federal crime.

Source: https://www.heraldandnews.com/news/local_news/business/oregon-pot-export-bill-gets-hearing-and-a-warning/article_a1e70343-f4b8-5288-84ef-37171e0ef91c.html

Wyoming

Proposed bills that would have legalized medical marijuana in Wyoming died after the House failed to consider them for introduction on February 4, 2019.

Source: <https://county17.com/2019/02/05/medical-marijuana-bills-die-in-the-house/>



LEGISLATION AND PROGRAM PROGRESS

Movement to change Marijuana Laws and/or Progress in State Marijuana Programs



Connecticut

Democratic senators have introduced a bill to legalize marijuana in the state. If passed, the legislation would allow adults 21 years or older to possess up to one ounce of marijuana. The bill would also establish a state-regulated dispensing system of marijuana businesses and allow individuals to possess a limited number of marijuana plants.

Source: <http://www.myrecordjournal.com/News/State/Senate-Democrats-making-push-for-legal-pot-in-Connecticut.html>

Commentary:



We anticipate this bill to pass as Governor Ned Lamont (D) has stated that policy reform for marijuana legalization is one of his top priorities in 2019. It's a natural progression for Connecticut to begin to look at marijuana legalization as its surrounding states of Massachusetts and Vermont have already legalized, and both New York and New Jersey are currently working on legislation to legalize as well. We will continue to monitor this bill's progression closely. If you're interested in establishing a marijuana business in Connecticut, start preparing with our [Connecticut Marijuana Business Starter Package](#).



Florida

Second Circuit Court Judge Karen Gievers has ruled that the cap on the number of dispensaries an existing operator can open is unconstitutional. Gievers wrote that the dispensary cap, instituted by the Florida Legislature in 2017, "erects barriers" that increase costs and delay access to products. Separately, a judge ruled last year that Florida's medical marijuana licensing structure, which includes a vertically-integrated structure and limits on the number of operators, is unconstitutional. New Governor Ron DeSantis has requested lawmakers to address the issue by mid-March.

Source: <https://mjbizdaily.com/florida-medical-marijuana-dispensary-cap-unconstitutional-judge-rules/>



Commentary:



Many states with similar vertically-integrated marijuana business licensing structures such as New York and New Jersey are breaking away from this model. A vertically-integrated license allows an entity to cultivate, process, *and* dispense medical marijuana. Segregating the licensing structure into separate categories for cultivation, processing, *or* dispensing will open the market and provide additional business opportunities.

Georgia

[Senate Bill 10](#) has been introduced by state lawmakers to decriminalize possession of less than a half ounce of marijuana. If passed, individuals in possession would receive a citation, similar to a traffic ticket. Supporters of the bill are emphasizing that SB 10 would not legalize marijuana or establish marijuana businesses in the state.

Source: <https://www.11alive.com/article/news/georgia-bill-would-decriminalize-marijuana-possession/85-1effe283-e460-4a13-ac8a-e17c81e68521>

Commentary:



To clarify, if the bill is approved it will not legalize the possession or use of marijuana, and furthermore it will not provide legal access to marijuana within the state. The bill's purpose is to decriminalize small amounts of marijuana possession, and individuals found in possession of less than a half ounce of marijuana would only need to pay a fine.



Hawaii

A Hawaii Senate committee approved [Senate Bill 686](#) on February 7, 2019 to legalize marijuana for adults 21 years and older in the state. The bill will likely be referred to one or two additional Senate panels before it goes before the full Senate for a final vote to advance it.

Source: <https://www.marijuanamoment.net/hawaii-lawmakers-unanimously-approve-marijuana-legalization-bill-in-committee/>

Commentary:



Limitations regarding the number of marijuana business licenses to be issued have not been outlined yet. If the bill passes into law, the Department of Taxation will develop by July 1, 2020 the limitations and regulations necessary to license recreational marijuana cultivation facilities, product manufacturing facilities, testing facilities, and retail stores. Application fees are also to be determined by the department, but may not exceed \$5,000. We will continue to monitor the bill's progression.

To begin preparing for the future opportunity to apply for a recreational marijuana business license in Hawaii, download our [Hawaii Marijuana Business Starter Package](#).



Illinois

Rep. Carol Ammons has introduced a marijuana legalization bill. If passed, [House Bill 902](#) would legalize the possession and use of marijuana for adults 21 years and older and allow individuals to grow up to 24 plants at home. The bill would also establish a state-regulated dispensing system of licensed marijuana businesses.

Source: <https://www.sj-r.com/news/20190208/first-bill-emerges-this-year-to-legalize-marijuana-in-illinois>

Commentary:



The bill is believed unlikely to pass by state lawmakers as a separate marijuana legalization bill has been in the works for over a year. We expect to see the other bill become public in the coming weeks and will continue to monitor the state's progress closely. Regardless of which bill passes, Illinois anticipates to legalize marijuana in 2019 which will provide additional marijuana business opportunities. Begin preparing for your marijuana business with our [Illinois Marijuana Business Starter Package](#).



Kansas

State lawmakers have introduced a bill to legalize a medical marijuana program. If passed, [House Bill 2163](#) would allow patients with qualifying medical conditions to access medical marijuana treatment. The bill would establish a state-regulated dispensing system of marijuana businesses. The bill also includes an initial 60-day period where medical marijuana would only



be available for military veterans who may be suffering from PTSD or physical injuries from their service.

Source: <http://www.kmuw.org/post/kansas-lawmakers-introduce-bipartisan-medical-marijuana-bill>

Commentary:



If the bill passes, the state will license the following medical marijuana facilities through an application process:

Medical cannabis dispensary – a facility licensed to sell medical cannabis consumer products to qualified patients.

Medical cannabis grower-distributor – a facility licensed to cultivate and harvest cannabis for sale to medical cannabis dispensaries.

The application fee for a dispensary is not to exceed \$5,000 and the application fee for a grower-distributor is not to exceed \$15,000. Upon issuance of a license, a license fee not to exceed \$30,000 is required by dispensaries and a license fee not to exceed \$90,000 is required by grower-distributors. To begin preparing for applications, download our [Marijuana Business Application Guide](#).



Mississippi

The Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus held hearings last week on Rep. Omeria Scott's proposed Mississippi Medical Marijuana Act of 2019. The bill is predicted by most lawmakers not to pass this session due to lack of support in the legislature during an election year. However, a 2020 ballot initiative campaign known as Mississippi Medical Marijuana 2020 has already received over 45,000 signatures. The campaign must collect 86,185 signatures by September 6, 2019 to have a medical marijuana legalization question appear on the 2020 ballot.

Source: <https://www.dailyleader.com/2019/02/06/medical-marijuana-unlikely-to-advance/>
<http://www.wlox.com/2019/02/10/petition-legalize-medical-marijuana-mississippi-gaining-thousands-signatures/>

Commentary:



The Mississippi Medical Marijuana 2020 ballot initiative would seek to amend the state's constitution to legalize a medical marijuana program. A state-



regulated dispensing system would be established by licensing Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTC) which would engage in one or more activities involved in the processing of marijuana (growing, processing, testing, or dispensing). The amendment outlines that the state may not limit the number of licensed MMTCs. To begin preparing for the application process to obtain a MMTC License, download our [Marijuana Business Application Guide](#).



Missouri

Missouri officials stated that they have received over \$3 million in medical marijuana license application fees since the state began accepting pre-filed application fees a month ago. A total of 418 fees were pre-filed: 226 for dispensary facilities, 128 for cultivation facilities, and 64 for infused-product manufacturing facilities. The state is keeping the identities of the applicants confidential.

Source: <https://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/ozarks/2019/02/07/missouri-collects-3-million-medical-marijuana-license-fees-cannabis/2805779002/>

Commentary:



According to the Missouri's new medical marijuana law, at least 192 dispensary licenses (24 in each of the 8 congressional districts), 62 cultivation licenses, and 88 product manufacturing licenses will be issued. Typically, for every 1 license available, you can expect 7-15 applicants. Individuals interested in applying for a license have until the application deadline to submit their application fees, which is expected to be in August 2019. If you plan on applying, you can begin building out your fundamental business plans with our [Missouri Marijuana Business Starter Package](#).



Nebraska

As anticipated, state Sens. Anna Wishart and Adam Morfeld filed a proposed constitutional ballot initiative last week for official review with the Secretary of State's office on behalf of Nebraskans for Sensible Marijuana Laws campaign. The filing shows the group's intention to place an initiative to legalize medical marijuana on the November 2020 ballot.

Source: https://journalstar.com/legislature/medical-marijuana-advocates-file-ballot-initiative-with-nebraska-secretary-of/article_fb1930aa-a40e-56fc-9d82-35a1e5383622.html



Commentary:



In addition to filing the 2020 ballot initiative, Sen. Anna Wishart has also introduced a bill in the state legislature to legalize a medical marijuana program for the state. The bill would establish a state-regulated dispensing system of medical marijuana producers, processors, and dispensaries. If the bill passes, 10 licenses of each business type in each congressional district is to be issued by November 1, 2020. There will be a \$25,000 application fee for each business license type. To begin preparing for the application process, download our [Marijuana Business Application Guide & Checklist](#).



New Hampshire

State lawmakers held a public hearing for a marijuana legalization bill before the legislature on February 5, 2019. If passed, the bill would legalize possession and consumption of marijuana for adults 21 years and older. The bill would allow home cultivation for personal use and establish a state-regulated dispensing system of licensed marijuana businesses.

Source: <http://www.tribtown.com/2019/02/05/us-marijuana-legalization-new-hampshire/>

Commentary:



Although Governor Chris Sununu has promised to veto the bill if it progresses to his desk for final approval, the Democratic speaker of the state House, Steve Shurtleff, has stated that his chamber and the Senate likely have enough support to override it. Maine encountered a similar issue of receiving a veto from their Governor on a marijuana legalization bill, but their legislature was successful in overriding it. Now Maine is currently establishing the rules and regulations to implement their recreational marijuana program. We anticipate to see New Hampshire to follow a similar path, especially since the state is surrounded by Vermont, Maine, and Massachusetts which have all legalized marijuana.



New Mexico

[House Bill 356](#) to legalize marijuana for the state cleared its first committee on February 9, 2019 with a 5-2 vote. The bill will need to face several committees and gain approval from both legislative chambers before going before the Governor's desk for final approval.

Source: <https://www.abqjournal.com/1278919/marijuana-legalization-advances-in-house.html>



Commentary:



If the bill doesn't receive amendments from the committees it goes before, the new law will allow for the following recreational cannabis establishments: retailers, producers, manufacturers, microbusinesses, testing laboratories, and couriers. The bill states that the division shall not limit the type or number of licenses that a licensee may be issued. To begin preparing for future marijuana business opportunities in New Mexico, download our [Marijuana Business Application Guide & Checklist](#).



Pennsylvania

Democratic state Rep. Jake Wheatley introduced [House Bill 50](#) which would amend the Medical Marijuana Act to legalize the recreational use and regulated sale of marijuana in the state. If passed, the bill would allow residents 21 years and older to possess and consume marijuana. The bill would establish state regulated adult-use marijuana businesses.

Source: <https://news.weedmaps.com/2019/02/adult-use-marijuana-legalization-bill-introduced-in-pennsylvania-house/>

Commentary:



The bill would allow existing medical marijuana establishments to apply for a combination permit which would permit the establishment to also conduct business as an adult-use facility. The bill would permit the Department of Health to license up to 50 adult-use cannabis grower/processors and up to 100 adult-use cannabis dispensaries. Existing medical facilities applying for a combination permit will have priority over another cannabis organization seeking a permit for an adult-use cannabis facility.



Tennessee

Sen. Janice Bowling and Rep. Ron Travis introduced the [Tennessee Medical Cannabis Act](#) to legalize a comprehensive medical marijuana program for the state. The bill would qualify patients with certain medical conditions to access medical marijuana treatment through a state-regulated dispensing system.

Source: <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/politics/2019/02/04/medical-marijuana-tennessee-republican-lawmaker-introduces-comprehensive-bill/2771112002/>



Commentary:



If passed, the Department of Agriculture would be tasked with issuing provisional fast track licenses categorized as urban omni licenses and rural vertically integrated (RUVI) licenses. The licenses would be vertically-integrated, allowing the licensee to cultivate, process, and dispense. A maximum of 12 urban omni licenses and 12 RUVI licenses are to be issued throughout the state. An application fee of \$85,000 will be required of those applying for urban omni licenses, and an application fee of \$45,000 will be required of those applying for RUVI licenses. To begin preparing for applications, download our [Marijuana Business Application Guide](#).



Texas

Multiple bills were introduced last week to expand medical marijuana laws in Texas. Rep. Ron Reynolds and Sen. José Menéndez have proposed [House Bill 209/Senate Bill 90](#). The bills would create a comprehensive medical marijuana program in Texas. They would allow Texans with certain debilitating medical conditions to grow their own marijuana plants for personal use and would also create a licensing process for dispensaries and testing facilities. Rep. Gina Hinojosa has filed [House Bill 122](#), which would provide an affirmative defense to prosecution for possession of marijuana for medical marijuana patients and caregivers. Rep. Terry Canales has proposed [House Bill 551](#), which would allow Texans who can currently use low-THC medical cannabis under the state's current Compassionate Use Act to possess marijuana concentrate.

Source: <https://abc13.com/politics/multiple-bills-aim-to-expand-medical-marijuana-in-texas/5123530/>

Commentary:



Currently, the state of Texas allows qualifying patients with intractable epilepsy to access low-THC marijuana products from licensed Dispensing Organizations. If passed, House Bill 290 would expand the list of qualifying conditions for medical marijuana treatment and would not limit the amount of THC in marijuana and marijuana products. The bill would task the Department of Public Safety (department) with licensing additional Dispensing Organizations. An application fee not to exceed \$2,500 and the number of licenses to be granted in the state will be determined by the department. Begin preparing for applications, download our [Texas Dispensary Application Guide](#).



Vermont

A new House measure introduced, [House Bill 196](#), would allow existing medical marijuana dispensaries to pay a \$75,000 fee to permit them to sell recreational marijuana to the general public of adults 21 years and older, at the beginning of next year. The state would then continue to iron out details about the regulatory structure of the recreational market before other dispensaries could open in April 2021.

Source: <https://www.sevendaysvt.com/OffMessage/archives/2019/02/08/vermont-house-bill-would-allow-legal-cannabis-sales-next-year>

Commentary:



The purpose of the bill is to speed up the availability of marijuana to consumers. It is typical to see states that have legalized marijuana, like Nevada, allow priority permitting to established medical facilities so they may provide to the new demand of the recreational market. The existing medical dispensaries will most likely need to go through a set of approvals with the state prior to catering to the recreational market.

GLOBAL NEWS

Marijuana Industry Updates from Around the World

Colombia

A Colombian marijuana company has received authorization to conduct the first-ever export of marijuana product to Canada for testing. The authorization from the Colombian government was granted roughly two weeks after the Canadian import permit was obtained.

Source: <https://mjbizdaily.com/colombias-first-ever-export-of-medical-cannabis-set-to-ship-to-canada/>

Belgium

Belgium's minority government has proposed a law that calls for the establishment of a medical cannabis agency to oversee production and distribution in pharmacies, hospitals and research institutes. If approved, the law would greatly expand access to medical cannabis in the country, though the most important details – including related regulations – are to be determined. [You can read the proposed law here.](#)

Source: <https://mjbizdaily.com/belgium-considering-medical-marijuana-agency-to-govern-production-distribution/>

The Dispensary Permits Team

Sara Gullickson, Founder and CEO, Dispensary Permits



Sara Gullickson is the Founder and CEO of Dispensary Permits, a nationally recognized cannabis consulting firm. Established in 2010, Dispensary Permits has secured dozens of cannabis license wins across 13 competitive state markets. One of the nation's leading consultants for the industry, Gullickson was named one of Herb Magazine's Top Ten Cannabis Entrepreneurs and Phoenix Business Journal's Top Forty Under 40 in 2018. Gullickson has operational and dispensary opening experience from the East to the West Coast, helping multiple startups achieve funding for new ventures. This year, she was approved for a provisional medical cannabis cultivation and processing license for Strive Wellness of Nevada, LLC, as part owner she will serve as COO of the company. An industry spokesperson, Gullickson headlined the cannabis tracks at the 2017 Real Estate Wealth Expo in Los Angeles and 2018 Real Estate Wealth Expo in Toronto. Gullickson has also presented at MJBizCon, World Medical Cannabis Conference & Expo, Dispensary Next, Cannabis World Congress and Business Expo, MJAC Investorshub International Conference, Women Grow Leadership Summit, and other national business events. [More information on Sara here.](#)

Maxime Kot, Junior Consultant, Dispensary Permits



Maxime Kot has been with DispensaryPermits.com for 4 years and is currently a Junior Consultant with the national cannabis consulting firm that offers seed to sale services with hands on support to marijuana entrepreneurs. Based in Scottsdale, Arizona, DispensaryPermits.com is one of the longest standing marijuana consulting companies in the industry. Maxime has assisted clients through competitive business licensing processes to obtain Cultivation, Manufacturing and/or Dispensary permits in eight different states to include Maryland, Hawaii, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Ohio, Nevada and Florida. Maxime also served as a co-chair of Women Grow Phoenix Chapter from 2015-2017, a local chapter of a national networking group to promote and connect business professionals in the industry. Maxime assisted with hosting monthly networking events that provided essential industry knowledge for those who were new to cannabis, and insight to those who were already established in the industry.

Ann Torrez, Junior Consultant, Dispensary Permits



Ann has extensive experience in retail and wholesale management with a solid history of sales success based upon exemplary customer service. In 2014, Ann entered the cannabis industry as a Dispensary Manager in the Phoenix, Arizona where she added to her knowledge of hiring, training, cash management, inventory controls to include seed-to-sale software as well as patient interaction and compliance. In 2015, Ann joined a cannabis infusion to create an educational program alongside an effective marketing program to penetrate commerce within Arizona. Recently, the company has implemented a complete re-brand and launch of 60 edibles in the medical

marijuana wholesale market. Developing procedures for distribution to over 100 dispensaries across the state, Ann has an in-depth knowledge of the analysis and implementation of systems to create compliant, safe products to sell and transport. Ann joined Dispensary Permits in 2017 to provide additional insight and hands-on knowledge to the team in the preparation and development of applications for new entries into the industry with wins in cultivation, dispensary and processing applications in multiple states.

Faith Fidura, Marketing and Communications, Dispensary Permits



Passionate about the health benefits of marijuana, Faith enjoys the work of assisting people with the process of establishing a business which provides medical marijuana to those who need it. In her position, work consists of assisting with marketing and sales in active marijuana markets, market research, client relations, blogging, branding, and social media marketing, along with administrative duties. Prior to working with Dispensary Permits, she worked as a Marketing Coordinator at a human resources service. Faith also holds a Bachelor's degree in Design Studies with a focus on Design Management from Arizona State University. Throughout her

education and work experience, Faith has gained skills in communication, online marketing, programming, strategic planning, time management, Adobe Photoshop and InDesign.

Kevin Hanlon, Assistant Editor, Dispensary Permits



Kevin Hanlon is the Assistant Editor and newest member to the Dispensary Permits team. He has long held a passion for spreading awareness on the medicinal properties of cannabis, and he believes that every adult should have the right to enjoy safe and responsible freedoms as she or he chooses. Kevin holds a J.D. from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and a B.A. in English from Arizona State University. He has worked in various areas of the legal field and written for multiple publications and entities.

Dispensary Permits Advisors



Heather Archer
Principal and Founding
Member of Archer Ives



Mollie Ring
Chief Financial Officer
of McGuffin Creative



Laura Bianchi
Director of Medical
Marijuana Practice
Group, Rose Law Group

[More information on the Dispensary Permits team here](#)