

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Bill would provide for the sacramental use of cannabis by an adherent of the Rastafarian religion in association with other persons of the same religion.

- Clause 1:** provides a short title by which the Act will be cited.
- Clause 2:** defines certain terms which are critical to the understanding of the Act.
- Clause 3:** is a declaratory clause affirming that the adherents of the Rastafarian religion may use cannabis in their worship as a religious body.
- Clause 4:** creates a permit scheme to facilitate the use of cannabis for sacramental purposes.
- Clause 5:** indicates what the sacramental use permit facilitates. It allows for the cultivation, harvesting and processing of cannabis at a place of worship to ensure its availability for the worship of the religious body. The cannabis produced on the compound of the place of worship can be readily supplied to and possessed by the people who attend that place of worship.
- Clause 6:** provides for the observance and use of the sacrament of cannabis at special events which are held away from the place of worship.
- Clause 7:** provides for terms and conditions to be attached to premises.
- Clause 8:** requires that cannabis grown for the purposes of this Act is to be secured from public access and public viewing.

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- Clause 9:** prohibits the use of cannabis under this Act for commercial benefit.
- Clause 10:** establishes a register to ensure that these places of worship are known and can be supported or regulated as the law may require.
- Clause 11:** provides for the Minister to appoint inspectors to investigate places of worship to ensure compliance.
- Clause 12:** provides for the permits to be suspended or revoked where the permit is not being used in accordance with the Act.
- Clause 13:** requires that the people in charge of the places of worship keep the Minister informed of any change in the leadership.
- Clause 14:** creates offences for the protection of the vulnerable.
- Clause 15:** provides for consequential amendments to be made to the *Drug Abuse (Prevention and Control) Cap. 131* to accommodate the use of cannabis as a sacrament.