

## Strange Bedfellows — Politics News

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### Tacoma panel to address medical pot rules

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Lewis Kamb at The News Tribune reports "the (Tacoma) city council has established a 'medical cannabis task force' to help form regulations for pot dispensaries in the city."



Municipalities across the state are grappling with how to deal with the growing number of medical pot shops and related enterprises. Earlier this month Mukilteo OK'd new zoning regulations for medical marijuana gardens.

On July 18 the Seattle City Council passed a new law that establishes a regulatory framework for the growing number of medical marijuana dispensaries in Seattle. The City Council unanimously passed its own ordinance because efforts to address medical marijuana, which is legal in Washington, foundered earlier this year in Olympia. Seattle officials will take up the issue of in-city zoning for the pot shops in the coming weeks.

Evergreen State voters approved legalizing medical marijuana in 1998. Washington is one of 16 states which allows marijuana use for medical purposes, but the federal government does not recognize any medicinal use for cannabis.

Gov. Chris Gregoire, citing concerns about possible federal prosecution of state employees, earlier this year vetoed most of a medical marijuana bill that would've set up a state regulatory framework for medical cannabis, however she allowed a section permitting collective marijuana grows with up to 45 plants, serving up to 10 patients.

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