



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**Chairman Jerome E. Horton**

**4<sup>th</sup> District – Los Angeles**

Cynthia Bridges  
Executive Director  
[www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov)

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## **BOE to Sponsor Legislation to Exempt Hospice Patients from Sales Taxes on Medical Marijuana**

**Sacramento** – California State Board of Equalization (BOE) Chairman Jerome E. Horton announces that the BOE approved sponsorship of a legislative proposal that will relieve the sales tax burden on medical marijuana purchases by Californians in hospice care. The Board took this action at its March 13, 2013 meeting in Sacramento.

“This measure eliminates sales tax on purchases of medicine that relieves the pain and suffering faced by our loved ones during their final days,” said Chairman Horton. “This measure is consistent with similar laws which exempt the purchases of many medications from sales and use taxes.”

Patients in hospice care who are suffering from cancer, HIV, and other illnesses are generally required to pay sales tax reimbursement on their purchases of medical marijuana. If this legislation proposed by the Board of Equalization is enacted, these patients will receive the benefit of the exemption from sales and use taxes.

“Such enabling legislation would provide the needed relief for these patients and ensure the integrity of the medical marijuana system in California,” Amir Daliri, Director of Government Relations for the California Cannabis Association, said in a letter to members regarding support for the BOE proposal.

The proposed legislation would provide a sales and use tax exemption for medical marijuana purchased by patients in hospice care, or their caregivers. The proposal would require these patients to apply for and obtain an exemption certificate from the BOE. The certificate would remain effective for the duration of their California Department of Public Health-issued Medical Marijuana Program identification.

BOE estimates that total sales of medical marijuana range between \$700 million and \$1.3 billion, resulting in \$58 million to \$105 million in annual sales and use tax revenues.

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Elected in 2010, Chairman Jerome E. Horton is the Fourth District Member of the California State Board of Equalization, representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the Board of Equalization’s Legislative

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Committee Chairman. He is the first to serve on the Board of Equalization with over 21 years of experience at the BOE. Horton previously served as an Assembly Member of the California State Assembly from 2000-2006.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board of Equalization collects more than \$53.7 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit [www.taxes.ca.gov](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

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