

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5109 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT REPLACING THE CANNABIS TOTAL THC TAX WITH AN EXCISE
Title: TAX.

Vote Date: 3/30/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/11/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Finance, Revenue, & Bonding Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The aim of this bill is to make Connecticut's cannabis industry more competitive with neighboring states by replacing the current THC-based tax with an excise tax of 10.75%.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

In lines 185 and 186, replace "sixty-five per cent" with "[sixty-five] seventy per cent".

In line 189, replace "ten per cent" with "[ten] five per cent".

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut General Assembly, House Majority leader, Representative Jason Rojas

Representative Jason Rojas submits testimony in support of H.B 5109 citing the positive impact it has on the overall cannabis market in Connecticut. Rojas notes that creating a flat tax of 10.75% aligns Connecticut's market more closely to that of bordering states which will create an incentive for CT residents to spend in the state rather than in neighboring states.

Lit New Haven, CEO, Kebra Smith-Bolden

Smith-Bolden writes in support of this bill citing that this bill continues the state of Connecticut's longstanding work in building a legal cannabis industry that prioritizes consumer safety by supporting market regulation through legitimate businesses. As the founder and owner of a licensed dispensary in New Haven, she highlights how the varying tax amounts depending on potency levels negatively impacts customer trust as they, at present, cannot easily understand how taxes are calculated. In turn, this legislation allows for transparency through predictable taxation rules and fosters trust amongst consumers, positively impacting the overall community.

The following individuals submitted similar testimony discussing the clarity H.B. 5109 provides:

Crisp Cannabis, President, Andrew Simonow
Fine Fettle Dispensaries, COO, Ben Zachs

BUDR Cannabis, Carl Tirella

Tirella expresses strong support for H.B 5109. Noting that, the current tax structure for cannabis is unreasonably complicated, and results in a variety of costs to the consumers based on potency and product type. This bill tries to rectify this issue by creating a flat tax rate allowing consumers to predict the final cost more appropriately.

Social Equity Council, Chief Executive Officer, Brandon L. McGee, Jr.

McGee writes in support of this bill, highlighting that this council's primary funding comes from cannabis tax revenue deposited into the Social Equity and Innovation Account (SEIA) and is then utilized to support Connecticut's community through funding startups, workforce education, community investments, and many more. As it stands, the SEIA receives 60% of the cannabis tax revenue and is expected to raise as much as 75% with the implementation of bills such as this one, overall benefiting the state of Connecticut.

Lou Rinaldi

Rinaldi submits testimony in support of this bill, highlighting that although he commends its straightforward mission, he challenges the rigid language utilized in this bill due to it disconnect from the legislation that legalized adult usage of cannabis in 2021. Rinaldi argues that strict enforcement of a 10.75% tax on cannabis products opposes the "social equity over profit" language written in 2021.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Susan Adamsen

Adamsen submits testimony in opposition to H.B. 5109, due to personal experiences as a parent and member of the Connecticut nonprofit community. She explains that these products are a direct threat to public health and lack proper regulation, instead of focusing on financial competition she urges lawmakers to focus on creating regulation, strict caps on potency, and to provide adequate public education about the harms of excessive cannabis use.

New Canaan Parent Support Group, Founder, Paul Reinhardt

Reinhardt opposes this bill citing that it will further normalize high potency cannabis use, furthering severe mental illness cases in the state of Connecticut. He highlights that high potency THC products increases the risk of severe mental illness, adding to the over 50,000 people already struggling.

Reported by: Jason Snukis, Enumaah Dadzie

Date: 4/10/26