



Substitute House Bill No. 5350

Public Act No. 26-8

AN ACT CONCERNING CANNABIS, HEMP AND INFUSED BEVERAGE REGULATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subsection (q) of section 1-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(q) Except as otherwise specifically defined, the words "agriculture" and "farming" include cultivation of the soil, dairying, forestry, raising or harvesting any agricultural or horticultural commodity, including the raising, shearing, feeding, caring for, training and management of livestock, including horses, bees, the production of honey, poultry, fur-bearing animals and wildlife, and the raising or harvesting of oysters, clams, mussels, other molluscan shellfish or fish; the operation, management, conservation, improvement or maintenance of a farm and its buildings, tools and equipment, or salvaging timber or cleared land of brush or other debris left by a storm, as an incident to such farming operations; the production or harvesting of maple syrup or maple sugar, or any agricultural commodity, including lumber, as an incident to ordinary farming operations or the harvesting of mushrooms, the hatching of poultry, or the construction, operation or maintenance of ditches, canals, reservoirs or waterways used exclusively for farming

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

purposes; handling, planting, drying, packing, packaging, processing, freezing, grading, storing or delivering to storage or to market, or to a carrier for transportation to market, or for direct sale any agricultural or horticultural commodity as an incident to ordinary farming operations, or, in the case of fruits and vegetables, as an incident to the preparation of such fruits or vegetables for market or for direct sale. The term "farm" includes farm buildings, and accessory buildings thereto, nurseries, orchards, ranges, greenhouses, hoopouses and other temporary structures or other structures used primarily for the raising and, as an incident to ordinary farming operations, the sale of agricultural or horticultural commodities. The terms "agriculture" and "farming" do not include the cultivation of cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act. The term "aquaculture" means the farming of the waters of the state and tidal wetlands and the production of protein food, including fish, oysters, clams, mussels and other molluscan shellfish, on leased, franchised and public underwater farm lands. Nothing herein shall restrict the power of a local zoning authority under chapter 124.

Sec. 2. Subparagraph (H) of subdivision (7) of subsection (c) of section 7-148 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(H) (i) Secure the safety of persons in or passing through the municipality by regulation of shows, processions, parades and music;

(ii) Regulate and prohibit the carrying on within the municipality of any trade, manufacture, business or profession which is, or may be, so carried on as to become prejudicial to public health, conducive to fraud and cheating, or dangerous to, or constituting an unreasonable annoyance to, those living or owning property in the vicinity;

(iii) Regulate auctions and garage and tag sales;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(iv) Prohibit, restrain, license and regulate the business of peddlers, auctioneers and junk dealers in a manner not inconsistent with the general statutes;

(v) Regulate and prohibit swimming or bathing in the public or exposed places within the municipality;

(vi) Regulate and license the operation of amusement parks and amusement arcades including, but not limited to, the regulation of mechanical rides and the establishment of the hours of operation;

(vii) Prohibit, restrain, license and regulate all sports, exhibitions, public amusements and performances and all places where games may be played;

(viii) Preserve the public peace and good order, prevent and quell riots and disorderly assemblages and prevent disturbing noises;

(ix) Establish a system to obtain a more accurate registration of births, marriages and deaths than the system provided by the general statutes in a manner not inconsistent with the general statutes;

(x) Control insect pests or plant diseases in any manner deemed appropriate;

(xi) Provide for the health of the inhabitants of the municipality and do all things necessary or desirable to secure and promote the public health;

(xii) Regulate the use of streets, sidewalks, highways, public places and grounds for public and private purposes;

(xiii) Make and enforce police, sanitary or other similar regulations and protect or promote the peace, safety, good government and welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(xiv) Regulate, in addition to the requirements under section 7-282b, the installation, maintenance and operation of any device or equipment in a residence or place of business which is capable of automatically calling and relaying recorded emergency messages to any state police or municipal police or fire department telephone number or which is capable of automatically calling and relaying recorded emergency messages or other forms of emergency signals to an intermediate third party which shall thereafter call and relay such emergency messages to a state police or municipal police or fire department telephone number. Such regulations may provide for penalties for the transmittal of false alarms by such devices or equipment;

(xv) Make and enforce regulations for the prevention and remediation of housing blight or blight upon any commercial real property, including regulations reducing assessments and authorizing designated agents of the municipality to enter property during reasonable hours for the purpose of remediating blighted conditions, provided such regulations define blight and require such municipality to give written notice of any violation to the owner of the property and provide a reasonable opportunity for the owner to remediate the blighted conditions prior to any enforcement action being taken, except that a municipality may take immediate enforcement action in the case of a violation at a property that is the third or more such blight violation at such property during the prior twelve-month period, and further provided such regulations shall not authorize such municipality or its designated agents to enter any dwelling house or structure on such property, and including regulations establishing a duty to maintain property and specifying standards to determine if there is neglect; prescribe civil penalties for the violation of such regulations (I) for housing blight upon real property containing six or fewer dwelling units, of not more than one hundred fifty dollars for each day that a violation continues if such violation occurs at an occupied property, not more than two hundred fifty dollars for each day that a violation

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

continues if such violation occurs at a vacant property, and not more than one thousand dollars for each day that a violation continues at a property if such violation is the third or more such violation at such property during the prior twelve-month period, (II) for housing blight upon real property containing more than six but fewer than forty dwelling units, not more than ten cents per square foot of each residential building upon such real property for each day that a violation continues, (III) for housing blight upon real property containing forty or more dwelling units, not more than twelve cents per square foot of each residential building upon such real property for each day that a violation continues, and (IV) for blight upon any commercial real property, not more than ten cents per square foot of any commercial building upon such real property for each day that a violation continues. If any such civil penalties are prescribed, such municipality shall adopt a citation hearing procedure in accordance with section 7-152c. For the sole purpose of determining if a violation is the third or more such violation at such property during the prior twelve-month period, "violation" means a violation of any municipal blight regulation for which the municipality has issued a notice of violation and either, in the determination of such municipality, the conditions creating such violation were previously cured or one hundred twenty days have passed from the notice of violation and the conditions creating such violation have not been cured. A third violation may also be established where three or more conditions constituting such violation exist at a property simultaneously;

(xvi) Regulate, on any property owned by or under the control of the municipality, any activity deemed to be deleterious to public health, including the burning of a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or similar device, whether containing, wholly or in part, tobacco or cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act, and the use or consumption of cannabis, including, but not limited to, electronic cannabis delivery systems, as defined in section 19a-342a, as amended

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

by this act, or vapor products, as defined in said section, containing cannabis. If the municipality's population is greater than fifty thousand, such regulations shall designate a place in the municipality in which public consumption of cannabis is permitted. Such regulations may prohibit the smoking of cannabis and the use of electronic cannabis delivery systems and vapor products containing cannabis in the outdoor sections of a restaurant. Such regulations may prescribe penalties for the violation of such regulations, provided such fine does not exceed fifty dollars for a violation of such regulations regarding consumption by an individual or a fine in excess of one thousand dollars to any business for a violation of such regulations;

Sec. 3. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 12-330*ll* of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(1) "Cannabis" has the same meaning as provided in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act;

Sec. 4. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (120) of section 12-412 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(B) Nonprescription drugs or medicines do not include cosmetics, dentifrices, mouthwash, shaving and hair care products, soaps, deodorants or products containing cannabis or cannabinoids. As used in this subparagraph, "cannabis" has the same meaning as provided in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act, and "cannabinoids" means manufactured cannabinoids or synthetic cannabinoids, as such terms are defined in section 21a-240, as amended by this act.

Sec. 5. Section 12-650 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, revision of 1958,

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

revised to January 1, 2021, any outstanding liabilities or assessments, or any portion thereof, made under said chapter related to the sale, purchase, acquisition or possession within the state or the transport or importation into the state, of [marijuana] cannabis, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended by this act, shall be cancelled. The Commissioner of Revenue Services may take any action necessary to effectuate the cancellation of such liabilities and assessments. No cancellation of a liability or an assessment pursuant to this section shall entitle any person affected by such cancellation to a refund or credit of any amount previously paid or collected in connection with such liability or assessment.

Sec. 6. Subdivision (13) of subsection (a) of section 12-704d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(13) "Cannabis" has the same meaning as provided in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act; and

Sec. 7. Subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 14-36 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(d) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued to any applicant who is sixteen or seventeen years of age unless the applicant has held a youth instruction permit and has satisfied the requirements specified in this subsection. The applicant shall (A) submit to the commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner shall direct, a certificate of the successful completion (i) in a public secondary school, a technical education and career school or a private secondary school of a full course of study in motor vehicle operation prepared as provided in section 14-36e, (ii) of training of similar nature provided by a licensed drivers' school approved by the commissioner, or (iii) of home training in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection, including, in each

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

case, or by a combination of such types of training, successful completion of: Not less than forty clock hours of behind-the-wheel, on-the-road instruction for applicants to whom a youth instruction permit is issued on or after August 1, 2008; (B) submit to the commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner shall direct, a certificate of the successful completion of (i) a course of not less than eight hours relative to safe driving practices, including a minimum of four hours on the nature and the medical, biological and physiological effects of alcohol and drugs, including cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act, and their impact on the operator of a motor vehicle, the dangers associated with the operation of a motor vehicle after the consumption of alcohol or drugs by the operator, the problems of alcohol and drug abuse, the penalties for alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations and a video presentation specific to the impact of cannabis on the operator of a motor vehicle and how the ingestion of cannabis can cause impairment of motor function, reaction time, perception and peripheral vision, and (ii) for applicants to whom a youth instruction permit is issued on or after January 1, 2026, the highway work zone and roadside vehicle safety awareness program established in section 14-111r; and (C) pass an examination which may include a comprehensive test as to knowledge of the laws concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the road in addition to the test required under subsection (c) of this section and shall include an on-the-road skills test as prescribed by the commissioner. At the time of application and examination for a motor vehicle operator's license, an applicant sixteen or seventeen years of age shall have held a youth instruction permit for not less than one hundred eighty days, except that an applicant who presents a certificate under subparagraph (A)(i) or [subparagraph] (A)(ii) of this subdivision shall have held a youth instruction permit for not less than one hundred twenty days and an applicant who is undergoing training and instruction by the driver training unit for persons with disabilities in accordance with the provisions of section 14-11b shall have held such permit for the period

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

of time required by said unit. The commissioner shall approve the content of the safe driving practices course at drivers' schools, high schools and other secondary schools. Subject to such standards and requirements as the commissioner may impose, the commissioner may authorize any drivers' school, licensed in good standing in accordance with the provisions of section 14-69, or secondary school driver education program authorized pursuant to the provisions of section 14-36e, to administer the comprehensive test as to knowledge of the laws concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the road, required pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, as part of the safe driving practices course required pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, and to certify to the commissioner, under oath, the results of each such test administered. Such hours of instruction required by this subdivision shall be included as part of or in addition to any existing instruction programs. Any fee charged for the course required under subparagraph (B)(i) or (B)(ii) of this subdivision shall not exceed two hundred dollars. Any applicant sixteen or seventeen years of age who, while a resident of another state, completed the course required in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, but did not complete the safe driving practices course required in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, shall complete the safe driving practices course. The commissioner may waive any requirement in this subdivision, except for the requirements of subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, in the case of an applicant sixteen or seventeen years of age who holds a valid motor vehicle operator's license issued by any other state, provided the commissioner is satisfied that the applicant has received training and instruction of a similar nature.

Sec. 8. Subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 14-227a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(2) In any prosecution for a violation of subdivision (1) of subsection

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(a) of this section in which it is alleged that the defendant's operation of a motor vehicle was impaired, in whole or in part, by consumption of cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act, the court may take judicial notice that the ingestion of cannabis (A) can impair a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle; (B) can cause impairment of motor function, reaction time, tracking ability, cognitive attention, decision-making, judgment, perception, peripheral vision, impulse control or memory; and (C) does not enhance a person's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Sec. 9. Subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 15-140r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(2) In any prosecution for a violation of subsection (a) of this section in which it is alleged that the defendant's operation of a vessel was impaired, in whole or in part, by consumption of cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act, the court may take judicial notice that the ingestion of cannabis (A) can impair a person's ability to operate a vessel; (B) can cause impairment of motor function, reaction time, tracking ability, cognitive attention, decision-making, judgment, perception, peripheral vision, impulse control or memory; and (C) does not enhance a person's ability to safely operate a vessel.

Sec. 10. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 19a-342 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(3) "Cannabis" [means marijuana, as defined] has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act; and

Sec. 11. Subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section 19a-342a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(6) "Cannabis" [means marijuana, as defined] has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act;

Sec. 12. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-3b of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(1) "Cannabis" has the same meaning as provided in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act;

Sec. 13. Section 21a-8c of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) There shall be a State-Wide Cannabis, [and] Hemp and Controlled Substances Enforcement [Policy] Board consisting of the Attorney General, the Chief State's Attorney, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services [, the Commissioner of Public Health,] and the Commissioner of Revenue Services, [and the executive director of the Social Equity Council,] or their designees.

(b) The [policy] board shall convene quarterly to (1) identify areas of need and enforcement opportunities concerning illegal cannabis sales, [and] intoxicating hemp product sales and controlled substance sales, and (2) [examine scientific developments and public health studies concerning cannabis and hemp, (3)] examine developments in national trends and best practices concerning cannabis, [and] hemp [regulation] and controlled substance enforcement. [, and (4) examine developments in the cannabis and hemp industries.]

(c) The quarterly meetings of the board, and all documents related to such meetings, shall not be available to the public or subject to inspection or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

defined in section 1-200.

Sec. 14. Section 21a-12g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

Not later than December 1, 2022, the Department of Consumer Protection shall develop documents concerning the safe storage by consumers of (1) prescription drugs, as defined in section 19a-754b, and (2) cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act, and cannabis products, as defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act. Such documents shall contain, but need not be limited to, information concerning best practices for (A) storing prescription drugs and cannabis and cannabis products in a manner that renders such items inaccessible to children, and (B) disposal of unused and expired prescription drugs and cannabis and cannabis products. Not later than December 15, 2022, the department shall publish such documents on its Internet web site.

Sec. 15. Subsection (d) of section 21a-106 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(d) If it is for use by man and contains any quantity of the narcotic or hypnotic substance alpha-eucaine, beta-eucaine, bromal, cannabis, carbromal, chloral, coca, cocaine, codeine, heroin, [marijuana,] morphine, opium, paraldehyde, peyote or sulphonmethane, or any chemical derivative of any such substance, which derivative has been designated as habit-forming by regulations promulgated under Section 352(d) of the federal act; unless its label bears the name and quantity or proportion of such substance or derivative and in juxtaposition therewith the statement "Warning-may be habit-forming";

Sec. 16. Subdivisions (20) to (29), inclusive, of section 21a-240 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(20) (A) "Drug paraphernalia" means equipment, products and materials of any kind that are used, intended for use or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing or concealing, or ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing into the human body, any controlled substance contrary to the provisions of this chapter, including, but not limited to: (i) Kits intended for use or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing or harvesting [of] any species of plant that is a controlled substance or from which a controlled substance can be derived; (ii) kits used, intended for use or designed for use in manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing or preparing controlled substances; (iii) isomerization devices used or intended for use in increasing the potency of any species of plant that is a controlled substance; (iv) testing equipment used, intended for use or designed for use in identifying or analyzing the strength, effectiveness or purity of controlled substances; (v) dilutents and adulterants, including, but not limited to, quinine hydrochloride, mannitol, mannite, dextrose and lactose used, intended for use or designed for use in cutting controlled substances; (vi) separation gins and sifters used, intended for use or designed for use in removing twigs and seeds from, or in otherwise cleaning or refining, [marijuana] cannabis; (vii) capsules and other containers used, intended for use or designed for use in packaging small quantities of controlled substances; (viii) containers and other objects used, intended for use or designed for use in storing or concealing controlled substances; and (ix) objects used, intended for use or designed for use in ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing [marijuana] cannabis, cocaine, hashish or hashish oil into the human body, including, but not limited to, wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic or ceramic pipes with screens, permanent screens, hashish heads or

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

punctured metal bowls; water pipes; carburetion tubes and devices; smoking and carburetion masks; roach clips; miniature cocaine spoons and cocaine vials; chamber pipes; carburetor pipes; electric pipes; air-driven pipes; chillums; bongos; ice pipes and chillers. "Drug paraphernalia" does not include a product used by a manufacturer licensed pursuant to this chapter for the activities permitted under the license or by an individual to test any substance prior to injection, inhalation or ingestion of the substance to prevent accidental overdose by injection, inhalation or ingestion of the substance, provided the licensed manufacturer or individual is not using the product to engage in the unlicensed manufacturing or distribution of controlled substances. As used in this subdivision, "roach clip" means an object used to hold burning material, including, but not limited to, a [marijuana] cannabis cigarette, that has become too small or too short to be held between the fingers.

(B) "Factory" means any place used for the manufacturing, mixing, compounding, refining, processing, packaging, distributing, storing, keeping, holding, administering or assembling of illegal substances contrary to the provisions of this chapter, or any building, rooms or location which contains equipment or paraphernalia used for this purpose.

(21) "Federal Controlled Substances Act, 21 USC 801 et seq." means Public Law 91-513, the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970.

(22) "Federal food and drug laws" means the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, as amended, Title 21 USC 301 et seq.

(23) "Hallucinogenic substances" are psychodysleptic substances, other than cannabis-type substances, which assert a confusional or disorganizing effect upon mental processes or behavior and mimic acute psychotic disturbances. Exemplary of such drugs are mescaline,

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

peyote, psilocyn and d-lysergic acid diethylamide, which are controlled substances under this chapter unless modified.

(24) "Hospital", as used in sections 21a-243 to 21a-283, inclusive, as amended by this act, means an institution for the care and treatment of the sick and injured, approved by the Department of Public Health or the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services as proper to be entrusted with the custody of controlled drugs and substances and professional use of controlled drugs and substances under the direction of a licensed practitioner.

(25) "Intern" means a person who holds a degree of doctor of medicine or doctor of dental surgery or medicine and whose period of service has been recorded with the Department of Public Health and who has been accepted and is participating in training by a hospital or institution in this state. Doctors meeting the foregoing requirements and commonly designated as "residents" and "fellows" shall be regarded as interns for purposes of this chapter.

(26) "Immediate precursor" means a substance which the Commissioner of Consumer Protection has found to be, and by regulation designates as being, the principal compound commonly used or produced primarily for use, and which is an immediate chemical intermediary used or likely to be used, in the manufacture of a controlled substance, the control of which is necessary to prevent, curtail or limit manufacture.

(27) "Laboratory" means a laboratory approved by the Department of Consumer Protection as proper to be entrusted with the custody of controlled substances and the use of controlled substances for scientific and medical purposes and for purposes of instruction, research or analysis.

(28) "Manufacture" means the production, preparation, cultivation,

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

growing, propagation, compounding, conversion or processing of a controlled substance, either directly or indirectly by extraction from substances of natural origin, or independently by means of chemical synthesis, or by a combination of extraction and chemical synthesis, and includes any packaging or repackaging of the substance or labeling or relabeling of its container, except that this term does not include the preparation or compounding of a controlled substance by an individual for the individual's own use or the preparation, compounding, packaging or labeling of a controlled substance: (A) By a practitioner as an incident to the practitioner administering or dispensing [of] a controlled substance in the course of such practitioner's professional practice; or (B) by a practitioner, or by the practitioner's authorized agent under such practitioner's supervision, for the purpose of, or as an incident to, research, teaching or chemical analysis and not for sale.

(29) ["Marijuana"] "Cannabis" (A) means all parts of any plant [,] or species of the genus cannabis, or any infra specific taxon thereof, whether growing or not; [the] (B) includes (i) every resin extracted from any part of [the plant; every] such plant, including, but not limited to, every resin extracted from (I) the mature stalks of such plant, (II) the fiber produced from the mature stalks of such plant, or (III) the oil or cake made from the seeds of such plant, (ii) every other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of such plant [,] or its resin, [,; any] and (iii) every (I) high-THC hemp product, [,; (II) manufactured [cannabinoids;] cannabinoid, or [cannabinon,] (III) cannabinol or cannabidiol and chemical compounds which are similar to [cannabinon,] cannabinol or cannabidiol in chemical structure or which are similar thereto in physiological effect, which are controlled substances under this chapter, except cannabidiol derived from hemp, as defined in section 22-61l, as amended by this act, that is not a high-THC hemp product; [, "Marijuana"] and (C) does not include [: (A) The] (i) the mature stalks of such plant, (ii) the fiber produced from [such stalks,] the mature stalks of such plant, (iii) the oil or cake made from

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

the seeds of such plant, ~~(iv)~~ any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of ~~[such] the~~ mature stalks ~~], except the resin extracted from such mature stalks or fiber, oil or cake; (B) the seed] of such plant,~~ ~~(v)~~ the seeds of such plant, ~~]; (C)]~~ ~~(vi)~~ hemp, as defined in section 22-61l, ~~as amended by this act,~~ ~~[(i)]~~ (I) with a total THC concentration of not more than three-tenths per cent on a dry-weight basis, and ~~[(ii)]~~ (II) that is not a high-THC hemp product, ~~]; (D)]~~ ~~(vii)~~ cannabinol, cannabigerol, cannabichromene or any other minor cannabinoid derived from hemp, ~~(viii)~~ any substance approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration or successor agency as a drug and reclassified in any schedule of controlled substances or unscheduled by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or successor agency which is included in the same schedule designated by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or successor agency, ~~];~~ or ~~[(E)]~~ ~~(ix)~~ any infused ~~[beverages]~~ beverage, as defined in section 21a-425, ~~as amended by this act.~~

Sec. 17. Subsection (e) of section 21a-243 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(e) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall classify ~~[marijuana]~~ cannabis as a controlled substance in schedule II under the Connecticut controlled substance scheduling regulations, except that for any ~~[marijuana]~~ cannabis product that has been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration or successor agency to have a medical use and that is reclassified in any schedule of controlled substances or unscheduled by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or successor agency, the commissioner shall adopt the schedule designated by the Drug Enforcement Administration or successor agency. In the event that ~~[marijuana]~~ cannabis is reclassified as a controlled substance in schedule III, IV or V of the federal Controlled Substances Act, or is unscheduled by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

successor agency, the commissioner shall adopt the schedule designated by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or successor agency.

Sec. 18. Subsection (a) of section 21a-246 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) No person within this state shall manufacture, wholesale, repackage, supply, compound, mix, cultivate or grow, or by other process produce or prepare, controlled substances without first obtaining a license to do so from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection and no person within this state shall operate a laboratory for the purpose of research or analysis using controlled substances without first obtaining a license to do so from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, except that such activities by pharmacists or pharmacies in the filling and dispensing of prescriptions or activities incident thereto, or the dispensing or administering of controlled substances by dentists, podiatrists, physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses or veterinarians, or other persons acting under their supervision, in the treatment of patients shall not be subject to the provisions of this section, and provided laboratories for instruction in dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, pharmacology and pharmacognosy in institutions duly licensed for such purposes in this state shall not be subject to the provisions of this section except with respect to narcotic drugs and schedule I and II controlled substances. Upon application of any physician or physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall without unnecessary delay, (1) license such physician to possess and supply [marijuana] cannabis for the treatment of glaucoma or the side effects of chemotherapy, or (2) license such physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse to possess and supply [marijuana] cannabis for the treatment of the side effects of

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

chemotherapy. No person outside this state shall sell or supply controlled substances within this state without first obtaining a license to do so from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, provided no such license shall be required of a manufacturer whose principal place of business is located outside this state and who is registered with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or other federal agency, and who files a copy of such registration with the appropriate licensing authority under this chapter.

Sec. 19. Section 21a-253 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

Any person may possess or have under [his] such person's control a quantity of [marijuana] cannabis less than or equal to that quantity supplied to [him] such person pursuant to a prescription made in accordance with the provisions of section 21a-249 by (1) a physician licensed under the provisions of chapter 370 and further authorized by subsection (a) of section 21a-246, as amended by this act, by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to possess and supply [marijuana] cannabis for the treatment of glaucoma or the side effects of chemotherapy, or (2) a physician assistant licensed under the provisions of chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under the provisions of chapter 378, and further authorized by subsection (a) of section 21a-246, as amended by this act, by said commissioner to possess and supply [marijuana] cannabis for the treatment of the side effects of chemotherapy.

Sec. 20. Subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 21a-277 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(3) For purposes of this subsection, "cannabis" has the same meaning as provided in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

Sec. 21. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-279 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) (1) Any person who possesses or has under such person's control any quantity of any controlled substance, except any quantity of cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act, and except as authorized in this chapter or chapter 420f, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

Sec. 22. Subdivision (1) of subsection (j) of section 21a-279a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(j) (1) As used in this section, "cannabis" [] has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act, and "cannabis flower", "cannabis trim", "cannabis concentrate" and "cannabis product" have the same meanings as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act.

Sec. 23. Section 21a-408 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

As used in this section, sections 21a-408a to 21a-408o, inclusive, as amended by this act, and sections 21a-408r to 21a-408w, inclusive, as amended by this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Advanced practice registered nurse" means an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378;

(2) "Cannabis" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act;

~~[(2)]~~ (3) "Cannabis establishment" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

[(3)] (4) "Cannabis testing laboratory" means a person who (A) is located in this state, (B) is licensed by the department to analyze [marijuana] cannabis, and (C) meets the licensure requirements established in section 21a-408r, as amended by this act, and the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (d) of section 21a-408r, as amended by this act;

[(4)] (5) "Cannabis testing laboratory employee" means a person who is (A) employed at a cannabis testing laboratory, and (B) registered pursuant to section 21a-408r, as amended by this act, and the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (d) of section 21a-408r, as amended by this act;

[(5)] (6) "Caregiver" means a person, other than the qualifying patient and the qualifying patient's physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse, who is eighteen years of age or older and has agreed to undertake responsibility for managing the well-being of the qualifying patient with respect to the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis, provided (A) in the case of a qualifying patient (i) under eighteen years of age and not an emancipated minor, or (ii) otherwise lacking legal capacity, such person shall be a parent, guardian or person having legal custody of such qualifying patient, and (B) in the case of a qualifying patient eighteen years of age or older or an emancipated minor, the need for such person shall be evaluated by the qualifying patient's physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse and such need shall be documented in the written certification;

[(6)] (7) "Cultivation" includes planting, propagating, cultivating, growing and harvesting;

[(7)] (8) "Debilitating medical condition" means (A) cancer, glaucoma, positive status for human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord with objective neurological

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

indication of intractable spasticity, epilepsy or uncontrolled intractable seizure disorder, cachexia, wasting syndrome, Crohn's disease, posttraumatic stress disorder, irreversible spinal cord injury with objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis or terminal illness requiring end-of-life care, except, if the qualifying patient is under eighteen years of age, "debilitating medical condition" means terminal illness requiring end-of-life care, irreversible spinal cord injury with objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, severe epilepsy or uncontrolled intractable seizure disorder, or (B) any medical condition, medical treatment or disease approved for qualifying patients by the Department of Consumer Protection and posted online pursuant to section 21a-408l, as amended by this act;

[(8)] (9) "Dispensary facility" means a place of business, for which the department has issued a dispensary facility license pursuant to this chapter, where [marijuana] cannabis may be dispensed, sold or distributed in accordance with this chapter and any regulations adopted thereunder to qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers [and for which the department has issued a dispensary facility license pursuant to this chapter] and qualifying out-of-state caregivers;

[(9)] (10) "Employee" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

[(10)] (11) "Institutional animal care and use committee" means a committee that oversees an organization's animal program, facilities and procedures to ensure compliance with federal policies, guidelines and principles related to the care and use of animals in research;

[(11)] (12) "Institutional review board" means a specifically constituted review body established or designated by an organization to protect the rights and welfare of persons recruited to participate in

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

biomedical, behavioral or social science research;

[(12)] (13) "Licensed dispensary" or "dispensary" means an individual who is a licensed pharmacist employed by a dispensary facility or a hybrid retailer, as defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

[(13) "Marijuana" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240;]

(14) "Nurse" means a person who is licensed as a nurse under chapter 378;

(15) "Palliative use" (A) means (i) the acquisition, distribution, transfer, possession, use or transportation of [marijuana] cannabis or paraphernalia relating to [marijuana] cannabis, including the transfer of [marijuana] cannabis and paraphernalia relating to [marijuana] cannabis from the qualifying patient's caregiver to the qualifying patient, to alleviate a qualifying patient's symptoms of a debilitating medical condition or the effects of such symptoms, [but] and (ii) the acquisition, possession, use or transportation of cannabis or paraphernalia relating to cannabis by a qualifying out-of-state patient, including the transfer of cannabis and paraphernalia relating to cannabis from the qualifying out-of-state patient's caregiver to the qualifying out-of-state patient, and (B) does not include any such use of [marijuana] cannabis by any person other than the qualifying patient or qualifying out-of-state patient;

(16) "Paraphernalia" means drug paraphernalia, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended by this act;

(17) "Physician" means a person who is licensed as a physician under chapter 370;

(18) "Physician assistant" means a person who is licensed as a physician assistant under chapter 370;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(19) "Producer" means a person who is licensed as a producer pursuant to section 21a-408i, as amended by this act;

(20) "Qualifying out-of-state caregiver" means a person, other than the qualifying out-of-state patient, who (A) is eighteen years of age or older, (B) is a resident of another state or jurisdiction of the United States, (C) is a parent, guardian or person having legal custody of the qualifying out-of-state patient, and (D) holds a valid qualifying out-of-state credential from such other state or jurisdiction that entitles such person to undertake responsibility for managing the well-being of the qualifying out-of-state patient with respect to the palliative use of cannabis in such other state or jurisdiction;

(21) "Qualifying out-of-state credential" means a card or other physical document issued by another state or jurisdiction of the United States to a resident of such other state or jurisdiction that entitles such resident to (A) engage in the palliative use of cannabis in such other state or jurisdiction, or (B) undertake responsibility for managing the well-being of a qualifying out-of-state patient with respect to the palliative use of cannabis in such other state or jurisdiction;

(22) "Qualifying out-of-state patient" means a person who (A) is a resident of another state or jurisdiction of the United States, and (B) holds a valid qualifying out-of-state credential from such other state or jurisdiction that entitles such person to engage in the palliative use of cannabis in such other state or jurisdiction;

[(20)] (23) "Qualifying patient" means a person who (A) is a resident of Connecticut, (B) has been diagnosed by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse as having a debilitating medical condition, and (C) (i) is eighteen years of age or older, (ii) is an emancipated minor, or (iii) has written consent from a custodial parent, guardian or other person having legal custody of such person that indicates that such person has permission from such parent, guardian

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

or other person for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis for a debilitating medical condition and that such parent, guardian or other person will (I) serve as a caregiver for the qualifying patient, and (II) control the acquisition and possession of [marijuana] cannabis and any related paraphernalia for palliative use on behalf of such person. "Qualifying patient" does not include an inmate confined in a correctional institution or facility under the supervision of the Department of Correction;

[(21)] (24) "Research program" means a study approved by the Department of Consumer Protection in accordance with this chapter and undertaken to increase information or knowledge regarding the growth or processing of [marijuana] cannabis, or the medical attributes, dosage forms, administration or use of [marijuana] cannabis to treat or alleviate symptoms of any medical conditions or the effects of such symptoms;

[(22)] (25) "Research program employee" means a person who (A) is registered as a research program employee under section 21a-408t, or (B) holds a temporary certificate of registration issued pursuant to section 21a-408t;

[(23)] (26) "Research program subject" means a person registered as a research program subject pursuant to section 21a-408v, as amended by this act;

[(24) "Usable marijuana"] (27) "Usable cannabis" means the dried leaves and flowers of the [marijuana] cannabis plant, and any mixtures or preparations of such leaves and flowers, that are appropriate for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis, but does not include the seeds, stalks and roots of the [marijuana] cannabis plant; and

[(25)] (28) "Written certification" means a written certification issued by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

nurse pursuant to section 21a-408c, as amended by this act.

Sec. 24. Section 21a-408a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) A qualifying patient shall register with the Department of Consumer Protection pursuant to section 21a-408d, as amended by this act, prior to engaging in the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis. A qualifying patient who has a valid registration certificate from the Department of Consumer Protection pursuant to subsection (a) of section 21a-408d, as amended by this act, and complies with the requirements of sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall not be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by a professional licensing board, for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis if:

(1) The qualifying patient's physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse has issued a written certification to the qualifying patient for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis after the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse has prescribed, or determined it is not in the best interest of the patient to prescribe, prescription drugs to address the symptoms or effects for which the certification is being issued;

(2) The combined amount of [marijuana] cannabis possessed by the qualifying patient and the caregiver for palliative use does not exceed five ounces;

(3) The qualifying patient has not more than one caregiver at any time; and

(4) Any cannabis plants grown by the qualifying patient in [his or] the qualifying patient's home [is] are in compliance with subsection (b)

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

of section 21a-408d, as amended by this act, and any applicable regulations.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section do not apply to:

(1) Any palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis that endangers the health or well-being of a person other than the qualifying patient or the caregiver; or

(2) The ingestion of [marijuana] cannabis (A) in a motor bus or a school bus or in any other moving vehicle, (B) in the workplace, (C) on any school grounds or any public or private school, dormitory, college or university property, unless such college or university is participating in a research program and such use is pursuant to the terms of the research program, (D) in any public place, or (E) in the presence of a person under the age of eighteen, unless such person is a qualifying patient or research program subject. For the purposes of this subdivision, (i) "presence" means within the direct line of sight of the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis or exposure to second-hand [marijuana] cannabis smoke, or both; (ii) "public place" means any area that is used or held out for use by the public whether owned or operated by public or private interests; (iii) "vehicle" means a vehicle, as defined in section 14-1; (iv) "motor bus" means a motor bus, as defined in section 14-1; and (v) "school bus" means a school bus, as defined in section 14-1.

(c) (1) A qualifying out-of-state patient who complies with the requirements of this chapter and chapter 420h shall not be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by a professional licensing board, for the palliative use of cannabis if the amount of cannabis possessed by the qualifying out-of-state patient and the qualifying out-of-state caregiver for palliative use

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

does not exceed five ounces.

(2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection do not apply to (A) any palliative use of cannabis described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section, or (B) any ingestion of cannabis described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 25. Section 21a-408b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) No person may serve as a caregiver for a qualifying patient unless such qualifying patient has a valid registration certificate from the Department of Consumer Protection pursuant to subsection (a) of section 21a-408d, as amended by this act. A caregiver may not be responsible for the care of more than one qualifying patient at any time, except that a caregiver may be responsible for the care of more than one qualifying patient if the caregiver and each qualifying patient have a parental, grandparental, guardianship, conservatorship, spousal or sibling relationship.

(b) (1) A caregiver who has a valid registration certificate from the Department of Consumer Protection pursuant to subsection (a) of section 21a-408d, as amended by this act, and complies with the requirements of sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall not be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by a professional licensing board, for the acquisition, distribution, possession or transportation of [marijuana] cannabis or paraphernalia related to [marijuana] cannabis on behalf of such caregiver's qualifying patient, provided the amount of any [marijuana] cannabis so acquired, distributed, possessed or transported, together with the combined amount of usable [marijuana] cannabis possessed by the qualifying patient and the caregiver, does not exceed

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

five ounces.

(2) A qualifying out-of-state caregiver who complies with the requirements of this chapter and chapter 420h shall not be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by a professional licensing board, for the acquisition, distribution, possession or transportation of cannabis or paraphernalia related to cannabis on behalf of such qualifying out-of-state caregiver's qualifying out-of-state patient, provided the amount of any cannabis so acquired, distributed, possessed or transported, together with the combined amount of usable cannabis possessed by the qualifying out-of-state patient and the qualifying out-of-state caregiver, does not exceed five ounces.

(3) For the purposes of this subsection, "distribution" or "distributed" means the transfer of [marijuana] cannabis and paraphernalia related to [marijuana] cannabis from the caregiver to the qualifying patient or from the qualifying out-of-state caregiver to the qualifying out-of-state patient.

(c) A dispensary facility shall not dispense any cannabis product, as defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act, in a smokable, inhalable or vaporizable form (1) to a caregiver for a qualifying patient who is under eighteen years of age, or (2) to a qualifying out-of-state caregiver for a qualifying out-of-state patient who is under eighteen years of age.

Sec. 26. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 21a-408c of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) (1) A physician, physician assistant or advanced practice

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

registered nurse may issue a written certification to a qualifying patient that authorizes the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis by the qualifying patient. Such written certification shall be in the form prescribed by the Department of Consumer Protection and shall include a statement signed and dated by the qualifying patient's physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse stating that, in such physician's, physician assistant's or advanced practice registered nurse's professional opinion, (A) the qualifying patient has a debilitating medical condition, and (B) the potential benefits of the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis would likely outweigh the health risks of such use to the qualifying patient.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (6) of this subsection, any written certification issued by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be valid for a period not to exceed one of the following durations, as determined by the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse and beginning on the date on which such written certification is signed and dated by the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse: (A) Six months; (B) one year; (C) eighteen months; or (D) two years.

(3) Except as provided in subdivision (6) of this subsection, not later than ten calendar days after the expiration of the period determined by the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse under subdivision (2) of this subsection, or at any time before the expiration of such period should the qualifying patient no longer wish to possess [marijuana] cannabis for palliative use, the qualifying patient or the caregiver shall destroy all usable [marijuana] cannabis possessed by the qualifying patient and the caregiver for palliative use.

(4) A physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse shall not be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty,

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by the Connecticut Medical Examining Board, the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing or other professional licensing board, for providing a written certification under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-408a, as amended by this act, if:

(A) The physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse has diagnosed the qualifying patient as having a debilitating medical condition;

(B) The physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse has explained the potential risks and benefits of the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis to the qualifying patient and, if the qualifying patient lacks legal capacity, to a parent, guardian or person having legal custody of the qualifying patient, to the qualifying patient's caregiver or to a person legally authorized to make medical decisions on behalf of the qualifying patient;

(C) The written certification issued by the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse is based upon the physician's, physician assistant's or advanced practice registered nurse's professional opinion after having completed a medically reasonable assessment of the qualifying patient's medical history and current medical condition made in the course of a bona fide health care professional-patient relationship; and

(D) The physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse has no financial interest in a cannabis establishment, except for retailers and delivery services, as such terms are defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act.

(5) A physician assistant or nurse shall not be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to,

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by the Connecticut Medical Examining Board, Board of Examiners for Nursing or other professional licensing board, for administering [marijuana] cannabis to a qualifying patient or research program subject in a hospital or health care facility licensed by the Department of Public Health.

(6) A licensed dispensary, acting in the course of the licensed dispensary's employment on the premises of the dispensary facility or hybrid retailer, as defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act, that employs such licensed dispensary, may grant a temporary extension of a written certification issued by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection for a period not to exceed ninety consecutive days following expiration of such written certification.

(b) (1) A licensed dispensary, acting in the course of the licensed dispensary's employment and on the premises of the dispensary facility or hybrid retailer, as defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act, that employs such licensed dispensary, may issue a temporary written certification to an individual that authorizes the individual to engage in the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis as a qualifying patient for a period not to exceed ninety consecutive days, provided such licensed dispensary has:

(A) Reasonably determined, after reviewing such individual's medical history, that such individual is at least eighteen years of age and has a debilitating medical condition;

(B) Conducted an in-person assessment of such individual at the dispensary facility or on the premises of the hybrid retailer that employs the licensed dispensary; and

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(C) Reviewed the electronic prescription drug monitoring program established pursuant to section 21a-254 and verified that no other licensed dispensary had prescribed or dispensed [marijuana] cannabis to such individual during the one-year period immediately preceding the date of such review.

(2) Each temporary written certification issued pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be in a form prescribed by the Department of Consumer Protection and shall include a statement signed and dated by the licensed dispensary stating that, in such licensed dispensary's professional opinion, (A) the individual has provided sufficient proof that such individual has a debilitating medical condition, and (B) the potential benefits the individual would derive from the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis likely outweigh the health risks that such use would pose to such individual.

(3) A licensed dispensary that issues a temporary written certification pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, or the dispensary facility or hybrid retailer that employs such licensed dispensary, may impose a fee for such temporary written certification, which fee shall not exceed twenty-five dollars. Such licensed dispensary, dispensary facility or hybrid retailer shall not impose any other fee in connection with such temporary written certification.

(4) A licensed dispensary that issues a temporary written certification pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall maintain all patient assessment and eligibility documentation concerning such temporary written certification for a period of at least three years beginning on the date on which the licensed dispensary issued such temporary written certification. Such documentation shall be organized and maintained (A) in hard copy at the dispensary facility or hybrid retailer premises at which the licensed dispensary conducted an in-person assessment of the patient, or (B) electronically in a system readily accessible by the licensed dispensary.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(5) A licensed dispensary that issues a temporary written certification pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall ensure that all patient assessment and eligibility documentation maintained pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection is made readily available to the department, and shall submit any such documentation to the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, not later than forty-eight hours after the department requests such documentation.

(6) A licensed dispensary shall not be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by the Commission of Pharmacy or any other professional licensing board, for providing a temporary written certification pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection if:

(A) The licensed dispensary has reasonably determined, after reviewing the individual's medical history, that the individual is eighteen years of age or older and has a debilitating medical condition; and

(B) The licensed dispensary has explained the potential risks and benefits of the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis to the individual and, if the individual lacks legal capacity, to a parent, guardian or person having legal custody of the individual or to a person legally authorized to make medical decisions on behalf of the individual.

Sec. 27. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 21a-408d of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) Each qualifying patient who is issued a written certification for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis under subdivision (1) of

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

subsection (a) of section 21a-408a, as amended by this act, and the caregiver of such qualifying patient, shall register with the Department of Consumer Protection. Such registration shall be effective from the date the Department of Consumer Protection issues a certificate of registration until the expiration of the written certification issued by the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse. The qualifying patient and the caregiver shall provide sufficient identifying information, as determined by the department, to establish the personal identity of the qualifying patient and the caregiver. If the qualifying patient is under eighteen years of age and not an emancipated minor, the custodial parent, guardian or other person having legal custody of the qualifying patient shall also provide a letter from both the qualifying patient's care provider and a physician who is board certified in an area of medicine involved in the treatment of the debilitating condition for which the qualifying patient was certified that confirms that the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis is in the best interest of the qualifying patient. A physician may issue a written certification for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis by a qualifying patient who is under eighteen years of age, provided such written certification shall not be for [marijuana] cannabis in a dosage form that requires that the [marijuana] cannabis be smoked, inhaled or vaporized. The qualifying patient or the caregiver shall report any change in the identifying information to the department not later than five business days after such change. The department shall issue a registration certificate to the qualifying patient and to the caregiver.

(b) Any qualifying patient who is eighteen years of age or older may cultivate up to three mature cannabis plants and three immature cannabis plants in the patient's primary residence at any given time, provided such plants are secure from access by any individual other than the patient or patient's caregiver and no more than twelve cannabis plants may be grown per household.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(c) A dispensary shall not dispense any [marijuana] cannabis products in a smokable, inhalable or vaporizable form to (1) a qualifying patient who is under eighteen years of age or such qualifying patient's caregiver, or (2) a qualifying out-of-state patient who is under eighteen years of age or such qualifying out-of-state patient's qualifying out-of-state caregiver.

Sec. 28. Section 21a-408e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

No person shall be subject to arrest or prosecution solely for being in the presence or vicinity of the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis as permitted under sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act.

Sec. 29. Section 21a-408f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

Any [marijuana] cannabis, paraphernalia relating to [marijuana] cannabis, or other property seized by law enforcement officials from a qualifying patient, [or a] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver in connection with the claimed palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis under sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall be returned to the qualifying patient, [or the] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver immediately upon the determination by a court that the qualifying patient, [or the] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver is entitled to the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis under sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act, as evidenced by a decision not to prosecute, a dismissal of charges or an acquittal. The provisions of this section do not apply to any qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver who fails to comply with the requirements for the palliative use of [marijuana]

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

cannabis under sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act.

Sec. 30. Section 21a-408g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) Any person who makes a fraudulent representation to a law enforcement official of any fact or circumstance relating to the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis in order to avoid arrest or prosecution under chapter 420b or any other provision of the general statutes shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

(b) Any person who makes a fraudulent representation to a law enforcement official of any fact or circumstance relating to the issuance, contents or validity of a written certification for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis, or a document purporting to be such a written certification, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

Sec. 31. Section 21a-408h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) No person may act as a dispensary or represent that such person is a licensed dispensary unless such person has obtained a license from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to this section.

(b) No person may act as a dispensary facility or represent that such person is a licensed dispensary facility unless such person has obtained a license from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to this section.

(c) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall determine the number of dispensary facilities appropriate to meet the needs of qualifying patients in this state and shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to provide for the licensure and standards for dispensary facilities in this state and specify the maximum number

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

of dispensary facilities that may be licensed in this state. On and after the effective date of such regulations, the commissioner may license any person who applies for a license in accordance with such regulations, provided the commissioner deems such applicant qualified to acquire, possess, distribute and dispense marijuana pursuant to sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act. At a minimum, such regulations shall:

(1) Indicate the maximum number of dispensary facilities that may be licensed in this state;

(2) Provide that no marijuana may be dispensed from, obtained from or transferred to a location outside of this state;

(3) Provide for renewal of dispensary facility licenses at least every two years;

(4) Describe areas in this state where dispensary facilities may not be located, after considering the criteria for the location of retail liquor permit premises set forth in subsection (a) of section 30-46;

(5) Establish health, safety and security requirements for dispensary facilities, which may include, but need not be limited to: (A) The ability to maintain adequate control against the diversion, theft and loss of marijuana acquired or possessed by the dispensary facility, and (B) the ability to maintain the knowledge, understanding, judgment, procedures, security controls and ethics to ensure optimal safety and accuracy in the distributing, dispensing and use of palliative marijuana;

(6) Establish standards and procedures for revocation, suspension, summary suspension and nonrenewal of dispensary facility licenses, provided such standards and procedures are consistent with the provisions of subsection (c) of section 4-182; and

(7) Establish other licensing, renewal and operational standards

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

deemed necessary by the commissioner.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter or chapter 420h:

(1) Only a licensed dispensary or dispensary technician under the direction of a licensed dispensary may upload data to the electronic prescription drug monitoring program established pursuant to section 21a-254, except such upload may be accomplished by way of an automated upload from the dispensary facility's point-of-sale system. A licensed dispensary shall conduct a daily audit of the data uploaded to such program pursuant to this subdivision. All other authorized activities of the dispensary facility, including, but not limited to, all such activities performed in connection with the sale, handling or management of marijuana for palliative use, may be performed by a licensed dispensary, dispensary technician or other registered employee of the dispensary facility.

(2) A dispensary facility shall ensure that a licensed dispensary is available, either in-person or remotely, when the dispensary facility is open. The dispensary facility shall ensure that a licensed dispensary is readily available to provide telehealth consultations and, upon request by qualifying patients or caregivers, in-person consultations. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require a dispensary facility to maintain a licensed dispensary at the dispensary facility for more than thirty-five hours per week either in-person or remotely.

(3) A dispensary facility that offers telehealth consultations with a licensed dispensary shall (A) maintain technology that is capable of facilitating such telehealth consultations, and (B) make such telehealth consultations readily available and accessible, including, but not limited to, by telephone from a remote location outside of the dispensary facility.

(4) Each dispensary facility shall conspicuously post and maintain a

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

sign (A) at the main entrance of the dispensary facility, which sign shall (i) be at least twelve inches in height and eighteen inches in width, (ii) incorporate lettering in a size and style that is clear and legible, and (iii) state the name of the licensed dispensary who is available for consultations either in person or through telehealth, and (B) at each register or comparable point of sale within the dispensary facility, and on any Internet web site maintained by such dispensary facility, which sign shall (i) be at least eight inches in height and ten inches in width, (ii) incorporate lettering in a size and style that is clear and legible, and (iii) state "Pharmacist available for consultation" in a clear and legible manner.

(5) No registered employee of a dispensary facility shall sell any marijuana for palliative use, unless such registered employee has completed at least (A) one hour of education concerning the types, availability, dosage and methods of administration of marijuana for palliative use, (B) one hour of education concerning professional ethics, (C) one hour of education concerning state and federal laws and regulations concerning patient privacy, and (D) one hour of education concerning developments in the palliative use of marijuana.

(e) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt or amend regulations, as applicable, to implement the provisions of subsection (d) of this section. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of subsection (d) of this section and to protect public health and safety, prior to adopting such regulations, the commissioner shall issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of subsection (d) of this section that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies and procedures on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection and the Secretary of the State for posting

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either adoption of such policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or July 1, 2028.

Sec. 32. Section 21a-408h of the general statutes, as amended by section 31 of this act, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) No person may act as a dispensary or represent that such person is a licensed dispensary unless such person has obtained a license from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to this section.

(b) No person may act as a dispensary facility or represent that such person is a licensed dispensary facility unless such person has obtained a license from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to this section.

(c) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall determine the number of dispensary facilities appropriate to meet the needs of qualifying patients in this state and shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to provide for the licensure and standards for dispensary facilities in this state and specify the maximum number of dispensary facilities that may be licensed in this state. On and after the effective date of such regulations, the commissioner may license any person who applies for a license in accordance with such regulations, provided the commissioner deems such applicant qualified to acquire, possess, distribute and dispense [marijuana] cannabis pursuant to sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act. At a minimum, such regulations shall:

(1) Indicate the maximum number of dispensary facilities that may be licensed in this state;

(2) Provide that no [marijuana] cannabis may be dispensed from,

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

obtained from or transferred to a location outside of this state;

(3) Provide for renewal of dispensary facility licenses at least every two years;

(4) Describe areas in this state where dispensary facilities may not be located, after considering the criteria for the location of retail liquor permit premises set forth in subsection (a) of section 30-46;

(5) Establish health, safety and security requirements for dispensary facilities, which may include, but need not be limited to: (A) The ability to maintain adequate control against the diversion, theft and loss of [marijuana] cannabis acquired or possessed by the dispensary facility, and (B) the ability to maintain the knowledge, understanding, judgment, procedures, security controls and ethics to ensure optimal safety and accuracy in the distributing, dispensing and use of palliative [marijuana] cannabis;

(6) Establish standards and procedures for revocation, suspension, summary suspension and nonrenewal of dispensary facility licenses, provided such standards and procedures are consistent with the provisions of subsection (c) of section 4-182; and

(7) Establish other licensing, renewal and operational standards deemed necessary by the commissioner.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, a retailer or hybrid retailer, as such terms are defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act, may use the term "dispensary" in any marketing, advertising or promotional material or in any signage, branding item, logo or label.

[(d)] (e) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter or chapter 420h:

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(1) Only a licensed dispensary or dispensary technician under the direction of a licensed dispensary may upload data to the electronic prescription drug monitoring program established pursuant to section 21a-254, except such upload may be accomplished by way of an automated upload from the dispensary facility's point-of-sale system. A licensed dispensary shall conduct a daily audit of the data uploaded to such program pursuant to this subdivision. All other authorized activities of the dispensary facility, including, but not limited to, all such activities performed in connection with the sale, handling or management of [marijuana] cannabis for palliative use, may be performed by a licensed dispensary, dispensary technician or other registered employee of the dispensary facility.

(2) A dispensary facility shall ensure that a licensed dispensary is available, either in-person or remotely, when the dispensary facility is open. The dispensary facility shall ensure that a licensed dispensary is readily available to provide telehealth consultations and, upon request by qualifying patients, [or] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers or qualifying out-of-state caregivers, in-person consultations. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require a dispensary facility to maintain a licensed dispensary at the dispensary facility for more than thirty-five hours per week either in-person or remotely.

(3) A dispensary facility that offers telehealth consultations with a licensed dispensary shall (A) maintain technology that is capable of facilitating such telehealth consultations, and (B) make such telehealth consultations readily available and accessible, including, but not limited to, by telephone from a remote location outside of the dispensary facility.

(4) Each dispensary facility shall conspicuously post and maintain a sign (A) at the main entrance of the dispensary facility, which sign shall (i) be at least twelve inches in height and eighteen inches in width, (ii) incorporate lettering in a size and style that is clear and legible, and (iii)

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

state the name of the licensed dispensary who is available for consultations either in person or through telehealth, and (B) at each register or comparable point of sale within the dispensary facility, and on any Internet web site maintained by such dispensary facility, which sign shall (i) be at least eight inches in height and ten inches in width, (ii) incorporate lettering in a size and style that is clear and legible, and (iii) state "Pharmacist available for consultation" in a clear and legible manner.

(5) No registered employee of a dispensary facility shall sell any [marijuana] cannabis for palliative use, unless such registered employee has completed at least (A) one hour of education concerning the types, availability, dosage and methods of administration of [marijuana] cannabis for palliative use, (B) one hour of education concerning professional ethics, (C) one hour of education concerning state and federal laws and regulations concerning patient privacy, and (D) one hour of education concerning developments in the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis.

(6) Dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers may dispense, sell or distribute cannabis for palliative use to qualifying out-of-state patients and qualifying out-of-state caregivers, provided:

(A) A qualifying out-of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state caregiver who purchases cannabis for palliative use submits to the dispensary facility or hybrid retailer, at the time of purchase, (i) the valid qualifying out-of-state credential that was issued to the qualifying out-of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state caregiver, and (ii) a registration form, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, that (I) is signed by the qualifying out-of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state caregiver, (II) includes the name of the qualifying out-of-state patient and qualifying out-of-state caregiver, (III) includes an acknowledgment by the qualifying out-of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state caregiver that the qualifying out-of-state patient or

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

qualifying out-of-state caregiver understands the laws and regulations of this state concerning the palliative use of cannabis by qualifying out-of-state patients and qualifying out-of-state caregivers, shall be ineligible to engage in the palliative use of cannabis in this state if the qualifying out-of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state caregiver violates any such law or regulation and shall not transport cannabis across any state or international boundary, and (IV) includes any other information the commissioner may reasonably require for the purposes of this chapter or chapter 420h; and

(B) A qualifying out-of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state caregiver who purchases cannabis for palliative use possesses the valid qualifying out-of-state credential that was issued to the qualifying out-of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state caregiver at all times while such qualifying out-of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state caregiver is in this state and in possession of cannabis for palliative use; and

(C) A dispensary facility or hybrid retailer submits the registration form described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision to the Department of Consumer Protection in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

[(e)] (f) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt or amend regulations, as applicable, to implement the provisions of subsection [(d)] (e) of this section. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of subsection [(d)] (e) of this section and to protect public health and safety, prior to adopting such regulations, the commissioner shall issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of subsection [(d)] (e) of this section that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies and procedures on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection and the Secretary

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either adoption of such policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or July 1, 2028.

Sec. 33. Subsection (b) of section 21a-408i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(b) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall determine the number of producers appropriate to meet the needs of qualifying patients in this state and shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to provide for the licensure, standards and locations for producers in this state and specify the maximum number of producers that may be licensed in this state at any time. On and after the effective date of such regulations, the commissioner may license any person who applies for a license in accordance with such regulations, provided (1) such person is organized for the purpose of cultivating [marijuana] cannabis for palliative use in this state, (2) the commissioner finds that such applicant has appropriate expertise in agriculture and that such applicant is qualified to cultivate [marijuana] cannabis and sell, deliver, transport or distribute [marijuana] cannabis solely within this state pursuant to sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act, and (3) the number of producer licenses issued does not exceed the number appropriate to meet the needs of qualifying patients in this state, as determined by the commissioner pursuant to this subsection. At a minimum, such regulations shall:

(A) Indicate the maximum number of producers that may be licensed in this state at any time, which number shall not be less than three nor more than ten producers;

(B) Provide that no [marijuana] cannabis may be sold, delivered,

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

transported or distributed by a producer from or to a location outside of this state;

(C) Establish a nonrefundable application fee of not less than twenty-five thousand dollars for each application submitted for a producer license;

(D) Establish a license fee and renewal fee for each licensed producer, provided the aggregate amount of such license and renewal fees shall not be less than the amount necessary to cover the direct and indirect cost of licensing and regulating producers pursuant to sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act;

(E) Provide for renewal of such producer licenses at least every five years;

(F) Provide that no producer may cultivate [marijuana] cannabis for palliative use outside of this state and designate permissible locations for licensed producers in this state;

(G) Establish financial requirements for producers, under which (i) each applicant demonstrates the financial capacity to build and operate a [marijuana] cannabis production facility, and (ii) each licensed producer may be required to maintain an escrow account in a financial institution in this state in an amount of two million dollars;

(H) Establish health, safety and security requirements for licensed producers, which shall include, but need not be limited to, a requirement that the applicant or licensed producer demonstrate: (i) The ability to maintain adequate control against the diversion, theft and loss of [marijuana] cannabis cultivated by the producer, and (ii) the ability to cultivate pharmaceutical grade [marijuana] cannabis for palliative use in a secure indoor facility;

(I) Define "pharmaceutical grade [marijuana] cannabis for palliative

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

use" for the purposes of this section;

(J) Establish standards and procedures for revocation, suspension, summary suspension and nonrenewal of producer licenses, provided such standards and procedures are consistent with the provisions of subsection (c) of section 4-182; and

(K) Establish other licensing, renewal and operational standards deemed necessary by the commissioner.

Sec. 34. Section 21a-408j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) No dispensary facility or employee of the dispensary facility may: (1) Acquire [marijuana] cannabis from a person other than a producer, [from a] cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer, food and beverage manufacturer, product packager [,] or transporter, as such terms are defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act; (2) transfer or transport [marijuana] cannabis to a person who is not (A) a qualifying patient registered under section 21a-408d, as amended by this act; (B) a caregiver of [such] a qualifying patient [,] (C) registered under section 21a-408d, as amended by this act; (C) a qualifying out-of-state patient; (D) a qualifying out-of-state caregiver of a qualifying out-of-state patient; (E) a hospice or other inpatient care facility licensed by the Department of Public Health pursuant to chapter 368v that has a protocol for the handling and distribution of [marijuana] cannabis that has been approved by the Department of Consumer Protection; [(D)] (F) a cannabis testing laboratory; [(E)] (G) an organization engaged in a research program; [(F)] (H) a delivery service, as defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act; or [(G)] (I) a transporter, as defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act; or (3) obtain or transport [marijuana] cannabis outside of this state in violation of state or federal law.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(b) No dispensary or employee of the dispensary facility acting within the scope of his or her employment shall be subject to arrest or prosecution or penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by a professional licensing board, for acquiring, possessing, distributing or dispensing [marijuana] cannabis pursuant to sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act.

Sec. 35. Section 21a-408k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) No producer or employee of the producer may: (1) Sell, deliver, transport or distribute [marijuana] cannabis to a person who is not (A) a cannabis establishment, (B) a cannabis testing laboratory, or (C) an organization engaged in a research program, or (2) obtain or transport [marijuana] cannabis outside of this state in violation of state or federal law.

(b) No licensed producer or employee of the producer acting within the scope of such employee's employment shall be subject to arrest or prosecution or penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by a professional licensing board, for cultivating [marijuana] cannabis or selling, delivering, transferring, transporting or distributing [marijuana] cannabis to a cannabis establishment, cannabis testing laboratory or research program.

Sec. 36. Section 21a-408l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall establish a Board of Physicians consisting of eight physicians or surgeons who are

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

knowledgeable about the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis and certified by the appropriate American board in the medical specialty in which they practice, at least one of whom shall be a board certified pediatrician appointed in consultation with the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Four of the members of the board first appointed shall serve for a term of three years and four of the members of the board first appointed shall serve for a term of four years. Thereafter, members of the board shall serve for a term of four years and shall be eligible for reappointment. Any member of the board may serve until a successor is appointed. The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall serve as an ex-officio member of the board, and shall select a chairperson from among the members of the board.

(b) A quorum of the Board of Physicians shall consist of four members.

(c) The Board of Physicians shall:

(1) Review and recommend to the Department of Consumer Protection for approval the debilitating medical conditions, medical treatments or diseases to be added to the list of debilitating medical conditions that qualify for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis for qualifying patients eighteen years of age or older;

(2) Review and recommend to the Department of Consumer Protection for approval any illnesses that are severely debilitating, as defined in 21 CFR 312.81(b), to be added to the list of debilitating medical conditions that qualify for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis for qualifying patients under eighteen years of age, taking into account, among other things, the effect of the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis on the brain development of such patients, which recommendations shall be accepted or rejected by the commissioner in [his or her] the commissioner's discretion;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(3) Accept and review petitions to add medical conditions, medical treatments or diseases to the list of debilitating medical conditions that qualify for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis;

(4) Convene as necessary to conduct public hearings and to evaluate petitions, which shall be maintained as confidential pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, for the purpose of adding medical conditions, medical treatments or diseases to the list of debilitating medical conditions that qualify for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis;

(5) Review and recommend to the Department of Consumer Protection protocols for determining the amounts of [marijuana] cannabis that may be reasonably necessary to ensure uninterrupted availability for a period of one month for qualifying patients, including amounts for topical treatments; and

(6) Perform other duties related to the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis upon the request of the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

(d) The Board of Physicians may review the list of debilitating medical conditions that qualify for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis and make recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to [general law] consumer protection and public health for the removal of a debilitating medical condition, medical treatment or disease from such list.

(e) Any individually identifiable health information contained in a petition received under this section shall be confidential and shall not be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200.

(f) [On and after October 1, 2021, conditions] Conditions added

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

pursuant to this section to the list of debilitating medical conditions that qualify for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis shall be posted by the commissioner on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, the list of debilitating medical conditions that qualify for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis shall be deemed approved and effective without further action as of the date such conditions are posted on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site.

Sec. 37. Section 21a-408m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to establish (1) a standard form for written certifications for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis issued by physicians, physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-408a, as amended by this act, and (2) procedures for registrations under section 21a-408d, as amended by this act. Such regulations, if any, shall be adopted after consultation with the Board of Physicians established in section 21a-408l, as amended by this act.

(b) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt or amend regulations, as applicable, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of sections 21a-408 to 21a-408g, inclusive, as amended by this act, and section 21a-408l, as amended by this act. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of sections 21a-408 to 21a-408g, inclusive, as amended by this act, and section 21a-408l, as amended by this act, and protect public health and safety, prior to adopting or amending such regulations the commissioner shall adopt policies and procedures to implement the provisions of sections 21a-408 to 21a-408g, inclusive, as amended by this act, and section [21a-408] 21a-408l, as amended by this act, that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

post all policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either adoption of such policies or procedures as a final regulation pursuant to section 4-172 or forty-eight months from October 1, 2021, if such policies or procedures have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under section 4-170. Such policies and procedures and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, how the department shall:

(1) Accept applications for the issuance and renewal of registration certificates for qualifying patients and caregivers;

(2) Establish criteria for adding medical conditions, medical treatments or diseases to the list of debilitating medical conditions that qualify for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis;

(3) Establish a petition process under which members of the public may submit petitions [] regarding the addition of medical conditions, medical treatments or diseases to the list of debilitating medical conditions;

(4) Establish requirements for the growing of cannabis plants by a qualifying patient in his or her primary residence as authorized under section 21a-408d, as amended by this act, including requirements for securing such plants to prevent access by any individual other than the patient or the patient's caregiver, the location of such plants and any other requirements necessary to protect public health or safety;

(5) Develop a distribution system for [marijuana] cannabis for palliative use that provides for:

(A) [Marijuana] Cannabis production facilities within this state that

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

are housed on secured grounds and operated by producers;

(B) The transfer of [marijuana] cannabis between dispensary facilities; and

(C) Distribution of [marijuana] cannabis for palliative use to qualifying patients or their caregivers by dispensary facilities, hybrid retailers and delivery services, as such terms are defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act; and

(6) Ensure an adequate supply and variety of [marijuana] cannabis to dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers to ensure uninterrupted availability for qualifying patients, based on historical [marijuana] cannabis purchase patterns by qualifying patients.

Sec. 38. Section 21a-408o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

Nothing in sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act, or section 21a-243, as amended by this act, shall be construed to require health insurance coverage for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis.

Sec. 39. Section 21a-408p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Action" has the meaning provided in section 47a-1;

(2) "Dwelling unit" has the meaning provided in section 47a-1;

(3) "Employer" means a person engaged in business who has one or more employees, including the state and any political subdivision of the state;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(4) "Landlord" has the meaning provided in section 47a-1;

(5) "Palliative use" has the meaning provided in section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

(6) "Caregiver" has the meaning provided in section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

(7) "Qualifying out-of-state caregiver" has the meaning provided in section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

(8) "Qualifying out-of-state patient" has the meaning provided in section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

~~[(7)]~~ (9) "Qualifying patient" has the meaning provided in section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

~~[(8)]~~ (10) "School" means a public or private elementary or secondary school in this state or a public or private institution of higher education in this state; and

~~[(9)]~~ (11) "Tenant" has the meaning provided in section 47a-1.

(b) Unless required by federal law or required to obtain federal funding:

(1) No school may refuse to enroll any person or discriminate against any student solely on the basis of such person's or student's status as a qualifying patient, ~~[or] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver~~ under sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act;

(2) No landlord may refuse to rent a dwelling unit to a person or take action against a tenant solely on the basis of such person's or tenant's status as a qualifying patient, ~~[or] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver~~ under sections 21a-408 to

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act; and

(3) No employer may refuse to hire a person or may discharge, penalize or threaten an employee solely on the basis of such person's or employee's status as a qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver under sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act. Nothing in this subdivision shall restrict an employer's ability to prohibit the use of intoxicating substances during work hours or restrict an employer's ability to discipline an employee for being under the influence of intoxicating substances during work hours.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis in violation of subsection (b) or (c) of section 21a-408a, as amended by this act.

Sec. 40. Subsection (d) of section 21a-408r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(d) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to (1) provide for the licensure or registration of cannabis testing laboratories and cannabis testing laboratory employees, (2) establish standards and procedures for the revocation, suspension, summary suspension and nonrenewal of cannabis testing laboratory licenses and cannabis testing laboratory employee registrations, provided such standards and procedures are consistent with the provisions of subsection (c) of section 4-182, (3) establish a registration renewal fee for each registered cannabis testing laboratory employee, provided the aggregate amount of such fees shall not be less than the amount necessary to cover the direct and indirect cost of registering and regulating cannabis testing laboratory employees in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, (4) establish procedures by which cannabis testing laboratories shall accept

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

[marijuana] cannabis samples from caregivers, qualifying patients and consumers for testing, and (5) establish other licensing, registration, renewal and operational standards deemed necessary by the commissioner. For the purposes of this subsection, "consumer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act.

Sec. 41. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 21a-408s of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) No cannabis testing laboratory or cannabis testing laboratory employee may (1) acquire [marijuana] cannabis from a person other than (A) a cannabis establishment or an organization engaged in a research program, or (B) a caregiver, a qualifying patient or a consumer, as defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act, providing a [marijuana] cannabis sample under regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to subsection (d) of section 21a-408r, as amended by this act, (2) deliver, transport or distribute [marijuana] cannabis to (A) a person who is not a cannabis establishment from which the [marijuana] cannabis was originally acquired by the cannabis testing laboratory or cannabis testing laboratory employee, or (B) an organization not engaged in a research program, or (3) obtain or transport [marijuana] cannabis outside of this state in violation of state or federal law.

(b) (1) No cannabis testing laboratory employee acting within the scope of such cannabis testing laboratory employee's employment shall be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by a professional licensing board, for acquiring, possessing, delivering, transporting or distributing [marijuana] cannabis to a cannabis establishment or an organization engaged in an approved research program under the provisions of this chapter.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(2) No cannabis testing laboratory shall be subject to prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty or denied any right or privilege, for acquiring, possessing, delivering, transporting or distributing [marijuana] cannabis to a cannabis establishment or an organization engaged in an approved research program under the provisions of this chapter.

(c) A cannabis testing laboratory shall be independent from all other persons involved in the [marijuana] cannabis industry in Connecticut, which shall mean that no person with a direct or indirect financial, managerial or controlling interest in the cannabis testing laboratory shall have a direct or indirect financial, managerial or controlling interest in a cannabis establishment or any other entity that may benefit from the laboratory test results for a cannabis [or marijuana] sample or product.

Sec. 42. Section 21a-408u of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) No research program or research program employee may (1) acquire [marijuana] cannabis from a person other than a cannabis establishment or cannabis testing laboratory, (2) deliver, transport or distribute [marijuana] cannabis to a person who is not (A) a cannabis establishment, (B) a cannabis testing laboratory, or (C) a research program subject, (3) distribute or administer [marijuana] cannabis to an animal unless such animal is an animal research subject, or (4) obtain or transport [marijuana] cannabis outside of this state in violation of state or federal law.

(b) No research program employee acting within the scope of such research program employee's employment shall be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

a professional licensing board, for acquiring, possessing, delivering, transporting or distributing [marijuana] cannabis to a cannabis establishment or cannabis testing laboratory, or a research program subject or distributing or administering [marijuana] cannabis to an animal research subject under the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 43. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 21a-408v of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(b) A research program subject who has a valid registration certificate from the Department of Consumer Protection and is acting within the scope of [his or her] the research program subject's involvement in an approved research program shall not be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by a professional licensing board, for the use of [marijuana] cannabis.

(c) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section do not apply to:

(1) Any use of [marijuana] cannabis that endangers the health or well-being of a person other than the research program subject or a research program employee; or

(2) The ingestion of [marijuana] cannabis (A) in a motor bus or a school bus or in any other moving vehicle, (B) in the workplace, (C) on any school grounds or any public or private school, dormitory, college or university property unless such college or university is participating in a research program and such use is pursuant to the terms of the research program, (D) in any public place, or (E) in the presence of a person under eighteen years of age unless such person is a qualifying patient or research program subject. For purposes of this subdivision, (i) "presence" means within the direct line of sight of the palliative use of

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

[marijuana] cannabis or exposure to second-hand [marijuana] cannabis smoke, or both; (ii) "public place" means any area that is used or held out for use by the public, whether owned or operated by public or private interests; (iii) "vehicle" means a vehicle, as defined in section 14-1; (iv) "motor bus" means a motor bus, as defined in section 14-1; and (v) "school bus" means a school bus, as defined in section 14-1.

Sec. 44. Section 21a-408w of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) (1) Each cannabis establishment shall submit [marijuana] cannabis samples to a cannabis testing laboratory for testing [as set forth in subsection (b) of this section] in accordance with the laboratory testing standards established in the regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to section 21a-421j, as amended by this act. The quantity and number of cannabis samples submitted shall be sufficient to ensure representative sampling of the corresponding cannabis batch size.

[(b) (1) A cannabis testing laboratory shall test each marijuana sample submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section (A) for microbiological contaminants, mycotoxins, heavy metals and pesticide chemical residue, and (B) for purposes of conducting an active ingredient analysis, if applicable.

(2) Microbiological contaminant testing conducted pursuant to subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall include, but not be limited to, microbiological contaminant testing for *Aspergillus* species as set forth by the Department of Consumer Protection and posted on the department's Internet web site.

(c) When conducting microbiological testing as set forth in subsection (b) of this section, the marijuana sample shall be tested by using (1) a molecular method that (A) includes quantitative polymerase chain

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

reaction, (B) is certified for identifying microbiological DNA, and (C) is approved by (i) the Association of Official Analytical Collaboration International, or (ii) a comparable national or international standards organization designated by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or (2) an alternative testing method approved by the Department of Consumer Protection and posted on the department's Internet web site.

(d) If a marijuana sample does not pass the testing set forth in subsection (b) of this section, the cannabis establishment that submitted such failing marijuana sample to the cannabis testing laboratory shall:

(1) Repeat testing as set forth in subsections (a) and (b) of this section on the marijuana batch from which such marijuana sample was taken, in a form and manner approved by the Department of Consumer Protection. If all repeated testing yields satisfactory results, the marijuana batch from which the marijuana samples were taken shall be released for sale;

(2) If such cannabis establishment submits to the Commissioner of Consumer Protection a remediation plan that is sufficient to ensure public health and safety, and the commissioner approves such remediation plan, remediate the marijuana batch from which such marijuana sample was taken and repeat all testing as set forth in subsections (a) and (b) of this section on such remediated marijuana batch, in a form and manner approved by the Department of Consumer Protection. If all repeated testing yields satisfactory results, the marijuana batch from which the marijuana samples were taken shall be released for sale; or

(3) If such cannabis establishment does not comply with subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection, or if any subsequent laboratory testing does not yield satisfactory results for the testing set forth in subsections (a) and (b) of this section, dispose of the entire marijuana batch from which the marijuana sample was taken in accordance with procedures

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

established by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, as published on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site.

(e) For purposes of the testing set forth in subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the quantity and number of marijuana samples taken shall be sufficient to ensure representative sampling of the corresponding marijuana batch size.]

(2) If the cannabis samples taken from a cannabis batch pass the laboratory testing required under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the cannabis batch shall be released for sale.

(3) If the cannabis samples taken from a cannabis batch fail the laboratory testing required under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the cannabis establishment that submitted the failing cannabis samples to the cannabis testing laboratory shall, not later than sixty days after the date of such failed laboratory testing:

(A) Repeat the laboratory testing required under subdivision (1) of this subsection on the cannabis batch in a form and manner approved by the commissioner;

(B) Submit to the Department of Consumer Protection a remediation plan for the cannabis batch, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section; or

(C) Dispose of the entire cannabis batch in accordance with procedures established by the commissioner and published on the department's Internet web site, unless the cannabis establishment submits to the department during such sixty-day period, and the commissioner approves, a request to extend the disposal period by sixty days. The commissioner shall not grant more than two such requests for any cannabis batch.

(b) Not later than sixty days after any repeated laboratory testing

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

performed pursuant to subparagraph (A) of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section:

(1) If the cannabis samples pass such repeated laboratory testing, the cannabis batch from which such cannabis samples were taken shall be released for sale; or

(2) If the cannabis samples fail such repeated laboratory testing, the cannabis establishment that submitted such failing cannabis samples shall:

(A) Submit to the Department of Consumer Protection a remediation plan for the cannabis batch from which such failing cannabis samples were taken, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section; or

(B) Dispose of the entire cannabis batch from which such failing cannabis samples were taken in accordance with procedures established by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection and published on the department's Internet web site, unless the cannabis establishment submits to the department during such sixty-day period, and the commissioner approves, a request to extend the disposal period by sixty days. The commissioner shall not grant more than two such requests for any cannabis batch.

(c) (1) Each remediation plan submitted to the Department of Consumer Protection under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section or subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section shall be submitted in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

(2) Not later than sixty days after the commissioner receives a remediation plan described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the commissioner shall:

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(A) Review the remediation plan to determine whether such remediation plan is sufficient to ensure public health and safety;

(B) On the basis of such determination, approve or reject such remediation plan; and

(C) Send to the cannabis establishment that submitted such remediation plan, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, a written notice disclosing such approval or rejection and, in the case of a rejection, the reasons for such rejection.

(3) If the commissioner does not send a written notice to the cannabis establishment pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection within the sixty-day period required under subdivision (2) of this subsection, such cannabis establishment's remediation plan shall be deemed approved.

(4) If the commissioner approves the remediation plan under subdivision (2) of this subsection, or if such remediation plan is deemed approved under subdivision (3) of this subsection, the cannabis establishment shall remediate the cannabis batch from which the failing cannabis samples were taken and repeat all laboratory testing required under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section in a form and manner approved by the commissioner; and:

(A) If the cannabis samples pass such repeated laboratory testing, such cannabis batch shall be released for sale; or

(B) If the cannabis samples fail such repeated laboratory testing, the cannabis establishment that submitted such failing cannabis samples for such repeated laboratory testing shall, not later than sixty days after the date of such failed repeated laboratory testing, dispose of such cannabis batch in accordance with procedures established by the commissioner and published on the department's Internet web site, unless the cannabis establishment submits to the department during such sixty-

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

day period, and the commissioner approves, a request to extend the disposal period by an additional sixty days. The commissioner shall not grant more than two such requests for any cannabis batch.

Sec. 45. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 21a-409 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(b) Hemp or manufacturer hemp products purchased by producers from third parties shall be tracked as a separate batch throughout the manufacturing process in order to document the disposition of such hemp or manufacturer hemp products. Hemp or manufacturer hemp products obtained, manufactured, marketed, cultivated or stored by a producer shall be deemed [marijuana] cannabis and shall comply with the requirements for [marijuana] cannabis contained in the applicable provisions of the general statutes and any regulations adopted pursuant to such provisions. Producers shall retain a copy of the certificate of analysis for purchased hemp or manufacturer hemp products and invoice and transport documents that evidence the quantity purchased and date received.

(c) (1) No hemp or producer hemp products shall be sold or distributed within a dispensary facility that is licensed pursuant to this chapter.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, manufacturer hemp products may be sold within a dispensary facility that is licensed pursuant to this chapter, provided such manufacturer hemp products are:

(A) Stored separately from [marijuana] cannabis;

(B) Separated, by a physical separation, from [marijuana] cannabis in any display area;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(C) Displayed with signage approved by the department;

(D) Tested by a laboratory that meets the standards for accreditation and testing, and sampling methods, set forth for an independent testing laboratory in section 22-61m, as amended by this act, which laboratory may be located outside of this state;

(E) Clearly labeled to distinguish the product as (i) a manufacturer hemp product, (ii) subject to different testing standards than cannabis, [or marijuana,] and (iii) not cannabis; [or marijuana;] and

(F) Sold in accordance with this chapter, chapter 424 and any regulations adopted pursuant to said chapters.

Sec. 46. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 21a-410 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Material change" means: (A) The addition of a dispensary facility backer or producer backer, (B) a change in the ownership interest of an existing dispensary facility backer or producer backer, (C) the merger, consolidation or other affiliation of a medical [marijuana] cannabis business with another person, (D) the acquisition of all or part of a medical [marijuana] cannabis business by another person, and (E) the transfer of assets or security interests from a medical [marijuana] cannabis business to another person;

(2) ["Medical marijuana business"] "Medical cannabis business" means a medical [marijuana] cannabis dispensary facility or production facility, licensed pursuant to this chapter and the regulations adopted under this chapter;

(3) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, corporation,

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

company, association, trust or other business or tribal entity; and

(4) "Transfer" means to sell, transfer, lease, exchange, option, convey, give or otherwise dispose of or transfer control over, including, but not limited to, transfer by way of merger or joint venture not in the ordinary course of business.

(b) No person shall, directly or indirectly, enter into a transaction that results in a material change to a medical [marijuana] cannabis business, unless all persons involved in the transaction file a written notification with the Attorney General pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and the waiting period described in subsection (d) of this section has expired.

Sec. 47. Section 21a-420 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

As used in RERACA, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis Act" or "RERACA" means this section, sections 2-56j, 7-294kk, 7-294ll, 12-330ll to 12-330nn, inclusive, as amended by this act, 14-227p, 21a-278b, 21a-278c, 21a-279c, 21a-279d, 21a-408w, as amended by this act, 21a-420a to 21a-420j, inclusive, as amended by this act, 21a-420l to 21a-421u, inclusive, as amended by this act, 21a-421aa to 21a-421ff, inclusive, as amended by this act, 21a-421aaa to 21a-421iii, inclusive, 21a-422 to 21a-422c, inclusive, 21a-422e to 21a-422g, inclusive, as amended by this act, 21a-422j to 21a-422s, inclusive, 21a-422u, 22-61n, as amended by this act, 23-4b, 47a-9a, 53-247a, as amended by this act, 53a-213a, as amended by this act, 53a-213b, as amended by this act, 54-33p, 54-56q, 54-56r, 54-125k and 54-142u, sections 23, 60, 63 to 65, inclusive, 124, 144 and 165 of public act 21-1, as amended by this act, of the June special session, and the amendments in public act 21-1, as amended by this act, of the June

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

special session to sections 7-148, as amended by this act, 10-221, 12-30a, 12-35b, 12-412, as amended by this act, 12-650, as amended by this act, 12-704d, as amended by this act, 14-44k, 14-111e, 14-227a to 14-227c, inclusive, as amended by this act, 14-227j, 15-140q, 15-140r, as amended by this act, 18-100h, 19a-342, as amended by this act, 19a-342a, as amended by this act, 21a-267, 21a-277, as amended by this act, 21a-279, as amended by this act, 21a-279a, as amended by this act, 21a-408 to 21a-408f, inclusive, as amended by this act, 21a-408h to 21a-408p, inclusive, as amended by this act, 21a-408r to 21a-408v, inclusive, as amended by this act, 30-89a, 31-40q, as amended by this act, 32-39, 46b-120, 51-164n, 53-394, 53a-39c, 54-1m, 54-33g, 54-41b, 54-56e, 54-56g, 54-56i, 54-56k, 54-56n, 54-63d, 54-66a and 54-142e, [and] section 22 of public act 25-101 and sections 48 to 52, inclusive, of this act;

(2) "Backer" means any individual with a direct or indirect financial interest in a cannabis establishment. "Backer" does not include (A) a bank, bank and trust company, bank holding company, Connecticut bank, Connecticut credit union, federal bank, federal branch, federal credit union, financial institution, foreign bank, holding company, out-of-state bank, out-of-state credit union, out-of-state trust company, savings and loan association, savings bank or savings and loan holding company, as such terms are defined in section 36a-2, or a wholly-owned subsidiary thereof, that provides nonequity financing to a cannabis establishment and does not directly participate in the control, management or operation of the cannabis establishment, or (B) an individual with an investment interest in a cannabis establishment if (i) the interest held by such individual and such individual's spouse, parent or child, in the aggregate, does not exceed five per cent of the total ownership or interest rights in such cannabis establishment, and (ii) such individual does not participate directly or indirectly in the control, management or operation of the cannabis establishment;

(3) "Cannabis" [means marijuana, as defined] has the same meaning

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act;

(4) "Cannabis establishment" means a producer, dispensary facility, cultivator, micro-cultivator, retailer, hybrid retailer, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer, product packager, delivery service or transporter;

(5) "Cannabis flower" means the flower, including abnormal and immature flowers, of a plant of the genus cannabis that has been harvested, dried, cured, chopped or ground, and prior to any processing whereby the flower material is transformed into a cannabis product. "Cannabis flower" does not include (A) the leaves or stem of such plant, or (B) hemp, as defined in section 22-61l, as amended by this act;

(6) "Cannabis testing laboratory" means a laboratory that (A) is located in this state, (B) is licensed by the department to analyze cannabis, and (C) meets the licensure requirements established in section 21a-408r, as amended by this act, and the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (d) of section 21a-408r, as amended by this act;

(7) "Cannabis testing laboratory employee" means an individual who is (A) employed at a cannabis testing laboratory, and (B) registered pursuant to section 21a-408r, as amended by this act, and the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (d) of section 21a-408r, as amended by this act;

(8) "Cannabis trim" means all parts, including abnormal or immature parts, of a plant of the genus cannabis, other than cannabis flower, that have been harvested, dried and cured, and prior to any processing, excluding chopping or grinding, whereby the plant material is transformed into a cannabis product. "Cannabis trim" does not include hemp, as defined in section 22-61l, as amended by this act;

(9) "Cannabis product" means cannabis, intended for use or consumption, that is in the form of (A) a cannabis concentrate, or (B) a

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

product that contains cannabis and at least one other cannabis or noncannabis ingredient or component, excluding cannabis flower;

(10) "Cannabis concentrate" means any form of concentration, including, but not limited to, extracts, oils, tinctures, [~~shatter~~] shatters and waxes, that is extracted from cannabis;

(11) "Cannabis-type substances" [~~have~~] has the same meaning as ["marijuana"] cannabis, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended by this act;

(12) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer Protection and includes any designee of the commissioner;

(13) "Consumer" means an individual who is twenty-one years of age or older;

(14) "Control" means the power to direct, or cause the direction of, the management and policies of a cannabis establishment, regardless of whether such power is possessed directly or indirectly;

(15) "Cultivation" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

(16) "Cultivator" means a person that is licensed to engage in the cultivation, growing and propagation of the cannabis plant at an establishment with not less than fifteen thousand square feet of grow space;

(17) "Delivery service" means a person that is licensed to deliver cannabis from (A) micro-cultivators, retailers and hybrid retailers to consumers and research program subjects, and (B) hybrid retailers and dispensary facilities to qualifying patients, caregivers and research program subjects, as defined in section 21a-408, as amended by this act, or to hospices or other inpatient care facilities licensed by the

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

Department of Public Health pursuant to chapter 368v that have a protocol for the handling and distribution of cannabis that has been approved by the department, or a combination thereof;

(18) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection;

(19) "Dispensary facility" means a place of business, for which the department has issued a dispensary facility license pursuant to chapter 420f, where cannabis may be dispensed, sold or distributed in accordance with chapter 420f and any regulations adopted pursuant to said chapter, to qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers [, and to which the department has issued a dispensary facility license pursuant to chapter 420f and any regulations adopted pursuant to said chapter] and qualifying out-of-state caregivers;

(20) "Disproportionately impacted area" means (A) for the period beginning July 1, 2021, and ending July 31, 2023, a United States census tract in the state that has, as determined by the Social Equity Council under subdivision (1) of subsection (i) of section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, (i) a historical conviction rate for drug-related offenses greater than one-tenth, or (ii) an unemployment rate greater than ten per cent, and (B) on and after August 1, 2023, a United States census tract in this state that has been identified by the Social Equity Council pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (i) of section 21a-420d, as amended by this act;

(21) "Disqualifying conviction" means a conviction within the last ten years which has not been the subject of an absolute pardon under the provisions of section 54-130a, or an equivalent pardon process under the laws of another state or the federal government, for an offense under (A) section 53a-276, 53a-277 or 53a-278, (B) section 53a-291, 53a-292 or 53a-293, (C) section 53a-215, (D) section 53a-138 or 53a-139, (E) section 53a-142a, (F) sections 53a-147 to 53a-162, inclusive, (G) sections 53a-125c to

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

53a-125f, inclusive, (H) section 53a-129b, 53a-129c or 53a-129d, (I) subsection (b) of section 12-737, (J) section 53a-48 or 53a-49, if the offense which is attempted or is an object of the conspiracy is an offense under the statutes listed in subparagraphs (A) to (I), inclusive, of this subdivision, or (K) the law of any other state or of the federal government, if the offense on which such conviction is based is defined by elements that substantially include the elements of an offense under the statutes listed in subparagraphs (A) to (J), inclusive, of this subdivision;

(22) "Dispensary technician" means an individual who has had an active pharmacy technician or dispensary technician registration in this state within the past five years, is affiliated with a dispensary facility or hybrid retailer and is registered with the department in accordance with chapter 420f and any regulations adopted pursuant to said chapter;

(23) "Edible cannabis product" means a cannabis product intended for humans to eat or drink;

(24) "Employee" means any person who is not a backer, but is a member of the board of a company with an ownership interest in a cannabis establishment, and any person employed by a cannabis establishment or who otherwise has access to such establishment or the vehicles used to transport cannabis, including, but not limited to, an independent contractor who has routine access to the premises of such establishment or to the cannabis handled by such establishment;

(25) "Equity" and "equitable" means efforts, regulations, policies, programs, standards, processes and any other functions of government or principles of law and governance intended to (A) identify and remedy past and present patterns of discrimination and disparities of race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation, (B) ensure that such patterns of discrimination and disparities, whether intentional or unintentional, are neither reinforced nor perpetuated, and (C) prevent

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

the emergence and persistence of foreseeable future patterns of discrimination or disparities of race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation;

(26) "Equity joint venture" means a business entity that is controlled, and at least fifty per cent owned, by an individual or individuals, or such applicant is an individual, who meets the criteria of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(51)] (54) of this section;

(27) "Extract" means the preparation, compounding, conversion or processing of cannabis, either directly or indirectly by extraction or independently by means of chemical synthesis, or by a combination of extraction and chemical synthesis to produce a cannabis concentrate;

(28) "Financial interest" means any right to, ownership, an investment or a compensation arrangement with another person, directly, through business, investment or family. "Financial interest" does not include ownership of investment securities in a publicly-held corporation that is traded on a national exchange or over-the-counter market, provided the investment securities held by such person and such person's spouse, parent or child, in the aggregate, do not exceed one-half of one per cent of the total number of shares issued by the corporation;

(29) "Food and beverage manufacturer" means a person that is licensed to own and operate a place of business that acquires cannabis and creates food and beverages;

(30) "Grow space" means the portion of a premises owned and controlled by a producer, cultivator or micro-cultivator that is utilized for the cultivation, growing or propagation of the cannabis plant, and contains cannabis plants in an active stage of growth, measured starting from the outermost wall of the room containing cannabis plants and continuing around the outside of the room. "Grow space" does not include space used to cure, process, store harvested cannabis or

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

manufacture cannabis once the cannabis has been harvested;

(31) "Historical conviction count for drug-related offenses" means, for a given area, the number of convictions of residents of such area (A) for violations of sections 21a-267, 21a-277, as amended by this act, 21a-278, 21a-279, as amended by this act, and 21a-279a, as amended by this act, and (B) who were arrested for such violations between January 1, 1982, and December 31, 2020, inclusive, where such arrest was recorded in databases maintained by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection;

(32) "Historical conviction rate for drug-related offenses" means, for a given area, the historical conviction count for drug-related offenses divided by the population of such area, as determined by the five-year estimates of the most recent American Community Survey conducted by the United States Census Bureau;

(33) "Hybrid retailer" means a person that is licensed to purchase cannabis and sell cannabis and medical [marijuana] cannabis products;

(34) "Infused beverage" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-425, as amended by this act;

(35) "Key employee" means an employee with the following management position or an equivalent title within a cannabis establishment: (A) President or chief officer, who is the top ranking individual at the cannabis establishment and is responsible for all staff and overall direction of business operations; (B) financial manager, who is the individual who reports to the president or chief officer and who is responsible for oversight of the financial operations of the cannabis establishment, which financial operations include one or more of the following: (i) Revenue and expense management; (ii) distributions; (iii) tax compliance; (iv) budget development; and (v) budget management and implementation; or (C) compliance manager, who is the individual

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

who reports to the president or chief officer and who is generally responsible for ensuring the cannabis establishment complies with all laws, regulations and requirements related to the operation of the cannabis establishment;

(36) "Labor peace agreement" means an agreement between a cannabis establishment and a bona fide labor organization under section 21a-421d, as amended by this act, pursuant to which the owners and management of the cannabis establishment agree not to lock out employees and that prohibits the bona fide labor organization from engaging in picketing, work stoppages or boycotts against the cannabis establishment;

(37) "Manufacture" means to add or incorporate cannabis into other products or ingredients or create a cannabis product;

(38) ["Medical marijuana product"] "Medical cannabis product" means cannabis that may be exclusively sold to qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers by dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers and which are designated by the commissioner as reserved for sale to qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers and published on the department's Internet web site;

(39) "Micro-cultivator" means a person licensed to engage in the cultivation, growing and propagation of the cannabis plant at an establishment containing not less than two thousand square feet and not more than ten thousand square feet of grow space, prior to any expansion authorized by the commissioner;

(40) "Municipality" means any town, city or borough, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and borough;

(41) "Paraphernalia" means drug paraphernalia, as defined in section

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

21a-240, as amended by this act;

(42) "Person" means an individual, partnership, limited liability company, society, association, joint stock company, corporation, estate, receiver, trustee, assignee, referee or any other legal entity and any other person acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity, whether appointed by a court or otherwise, and any combination thereof;

(43) "Personal data" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-515;

[(43)] (44) "Producer" means a person that is licensed as a producer pursuant to section 21a-408i, as amended by this act, and any regulations adopted pursuant to said section;

[(44)] (45) "Product manufacturer" means a person that is licensed to obtain cannabis, extract and manufacture products;

[(45)] (46) "Product packager" means a person that is licensed to package and label cannabis;

(47) "Qualifying out-of-state caregiver" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

(48) "Qualifying out-of-state patient" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

[(46)] (49) "Qualifying patient" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

[(47)] (50) "Research program" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

[(48)] (51) "Retailer" means a person, excluding a dispensary facility and hybrid retailer, that is licensed to purchase cannabis from producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product manufacturers and

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

food and beverage manufacturers and to sell cannabis to consumers and research programs;

[(49)] (52) "Sale" or "sell" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act;

[(50)] (53) "Social Equity Council" or "council" means the council established under section 21a-420d, as amended by this act;

[(51)] (54) "Social equity applicant" means a person that has applied for a license for a cannabis establishment, where such applicant is controlled, and at least sixty-five per cent owned, by an individual or individuals, or such applicant is an individual, who:

(A) Had an average household income of less than three hundred per cent of the state median household income over the three tax years immediately preceding such individual's application; and

(B) (i) Was a resident of a disproportionately impacted area for not less than five of the ten years immediately preceding the date of such application; or

(ii) Was a resident of a disproportionately impacted area for not less than nine years prior to attaining the age of eighteen;

[(52)] (55) "THC" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act;

[(53)] (56) "Third-party lottery operator" means a person, or a constituent unit of the state system of higher education, that conducts lotteries pursuant to section 21a-420g, as amended by this act, identifies the cannabis establishment license applications for consideration without performing any review of the applications that are identified for consideration, and that has no direct or indirect oversight of or investment in a cannabis establishment or a cannabis establishment

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

applicant;

[(54)] (57) "Transfer" means to transfer, change, give or otherwise dispose of control over or interest in;

[(55)] (58) "Transport" means to physically move from one place to another;

[(56)] (59) "Transporter" means a person licensed to transport cannabis between cannabis establishments, cannabis testing laboratories and research programs; and

[(57)] (60) "Unemployment rate" means, in a given area, the number of people sixteen years of age or older who are in the civilian labor force and unemployed divided by the number of people sixteen years of age or older who are in the civilian labor force.

Sec. 48. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) There is established a cannabis regulatory working group to (1) study regulations adopted or proposed, and policies and procedures issued or proposed, by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection and the Social Equity Council concerning cannabis, (2) recommend the adoption or amendment of regulations concerning cannabis, (3) recommend the issuance or amendment of policies and procedures concerning cannabis, and (4) propose legislation concerning cannabis.

(b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

(1) One appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection;

(2) One appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(3) One appointed by the House ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection; and

(4) One appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection.

(c) Any member of the working group appointed under subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not later than October 31, 2026. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection shall select the chairpersons of the working group from among the members of the working group. The chairpersons of the working group shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than December 1, 2026.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2027, and periodically thereafter as the working group deems appropriate, the working group shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 49. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) No retailer, hybrid retailer or dispensary facility shall borrow money or receive credit, directly or

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

indirectly, in any form for a period in excess of thirty days from any cultivator, micro-cultivator or producer.

Sec. 50. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 420f or 420h of the general statutes, no cannabis establishment licensed to deliver or transport cannabis shall be required to staff any cannabis delivery or transport vehicle with more than one employee in order to deliver or transport cannabis to another cannabis establishment, a cannabis testing laboratory or a research program location if such vehicle is equipped with the following devices and container for the purpose of preventing any diversion, theft or loss of cannabis:

(1) An electronic recording device that electronically records video of such vehicle's interior at all times while such vehicle is used to deliver or transport cannabis;

(2) An electronic tracking device that tracks, in real time, the geospatial location of such vehicle by means of the global positioning system at all times while such vehicle is used to deliver or transport cannabis; and

(3) A secure container that is permanently affixed to such vehicle and contains all cannabis delivered or transported by such vehicle.

(b) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes to implement the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, and may adopt policies and procedures as set forth in section 21a-421j of the general statutes, as amended by this act, prior to adopting such regulations.

Sec. 51. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 420f or 420h of the general statutes, no producer, cultivator or micro-cultivator engaged in the outdoor cultivation of

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

cannabis shall be required to maintain a fence on the perimeter of the outdoor cannabis cultivation area that is more than eight feet in height.

Sec. 52. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) (1) Each cannabis establishment shall submit cannabis samples to a cannabis testing laboratory for testing in accordance with the laboratory testing standards established in the regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to section 21a-421j of the general statutes, as amended by this act. The quantity and number of cannabis samples submitted shall be sufficient to ensure representative sampling of the corresponding cannabis batch size.

(2) If the cannabis samples taken from a cannabis batch pass the laboratory testing required under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the cannabis batch shall be released for sale.

(3) If the cannabis samples taken from a cannabis batch fail the laboratory testing required under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the cannabis establishment that submitted the failing cannabis samples to the cannabis testing laboratory shall, not later than sixty days after the date of such failed laboratory testing:

(A) Repeat the laboratory testing required under subdivision (1) of this subsection on the cannabis batch in a form and manner approved by the commissioner;

(B) Submit to the Department of Consumer Protection a remediation plan for the cannabis batch, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section; or

(C) Dispose of the entire cannabis batch in accordance with procedures established by the commissioner and published on the department's Internet web site, unless the cannabis establishment submits to the department during such sixty-day period, and the commissioner approves, a request to extend the disposal period by sixty

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

days. The commissioner shall not grant more than two such requests for any cannabis batch.

(b) Not later than sixty days after any repeated laboratory testing performed pursuant to subparagraph (A) of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section:

(1) If the cannabis samples pass such repeated laboratory testing, the cannabis batch from which such cannabis samples were taken shall be released for sale; or

(2) If the cannabis samples fail such repeated laboratory testing, the cannabis establishment that submitted such failing cannabis samples shall:

(A) Submit to the Department of Consumer Protection a remediation plan for the cannabis batch from which such failing cannabis samples were taken, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section; or

(B) Dispose of the entire cannabis batch from which such failing cannabis samples were taken in accordance with procedures established by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection and published on the department's Internet web site, unless the cannabis establishment submits to the department during such sixty-day period, and the commissioner approves, a request to extend the disposal period by sixty days. The commissioner shall not grant more than two such requests for any cannabis batch.

(c) (1) Each remediation plan submitted to the Department of Consumer Protection under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section or subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section shall be submitted in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(2) Not later than sixty days after the commissioner receives a remediation plan described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the commissioner shall:

(A) Review the remediation plan to determine whether such remediation plan is sufficient to ensure public health and safety;

(B) On the basis of such determination, approve or reject such remediation plan; and

(C) Send to the cannabis establishment that submitted such remediation plan, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, a written notice disclosing such approval or rejection and, in the case of a rejection, the reasons for such rejection.

(3) If the commissioner does not send a written notice to the cannabis establishment pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection within the sixty-day period required under subdivision (2) of this subsection, such cannabis establishment's remediation plan shall be deemed approved.

(4) If the commissioner approves the remediation plan under subdivision (2) of this subsection, or if such remediation plan is deemed approved under subdivision (3) of this subsection, the cannabis establishment shall remediate the cannabis batch from which the failing cannabis samples were taken and repeat all laboratory testing required under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section in a form and manner approved by the commissioner; and:

(A) If the cannabis samples pass such repeated laboratory testing, such cannabis batch shall be released for sale; or

(B) If the cannabis samples fail such repeated laboratory testing, the cannabis establishment that submitted such failing cannabis samples for such repeated laboratory testing shall, not later than sixty days after the

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

date of such failed repeated laboratory testing, dispose of such cannabis batch in accordance with procedures established by the commissioner and published on the department's Internet web site, unless the cannabis establishment submits to the department during such sixty-day period, and the commissioner approves, a request to extend the disposal period by an additional sixty days. The commissioner shall not grant more than two such requests for any cannabis batch.

Sec. 53. Subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of section 21a-420c of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Cigarette" has the same meaning as provided in section 4-28h;

(2) "Electronic cigarette liquid" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-415;

(3) "Electronic nicotine delivery system" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-415;

(4) "Immediate threat to public health and safety" includes, but is not limited to, (A) the presence of [(A)] (i) any cannabis or cannabis product in connection with a violation of this section, [or (B)] (ii) any cigarette, tobacco product, electronic cigarette liquid, electronic nicotine delivery system, [or] liquid nicotine container or nicotine product stored or displayed adjacent or proximate to any cannabis or cannabis product or otherwise being sold unlawfully, (iii) any controlled substance in schedule I or II, (iv) any product offered or sold for human consumption that any federal, state or local government agency acting within the scope of its authority has deemed unsafe based on reports that such product has caused personal injury or illness, or (v) any unlawful firearm, or (B) any documented sale of any product to an individual who is under the minimum age to purchase such product;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(5) "Liquid nicotine container" has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-342a, as amended by this act; [and]

(6) "Nicotine product" means any product, regardless of form, that is made from or otherwise contains nicotine; and

[(6)] (7) "Tobacco product" has the same meaning as provided in section 12-330a.

(b) Except as provided in RERACA and chapter 420b or 420f, (1) no person, other than a retailer, hybrid retailer, micro-cultivator or delivery service, or an employee thereof in the course of such employee's employment, may sell or offer any cannabis or cannabis product to a consumer, [and] (2) no person, other than a hybrid retailer, dispensary facility or a delivery service, or an employee thereof in the course of such employee's employment, may sell or offer any cannabis or cannabis product to a qualifying patient or caregiver, and (3) no person, other than a hybrid retailer or dispensary facility, or an employee thereof in the course of such employee's employment, may sell or offer any cannabis or cannabis product to a qualifying out-of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state caregiver.

(c) No person except a delivery service, or an employee of a delivery service, subject to the restrictions set forth in section 21a-420z, as amended by this act, acting in the course of such employee's employment, may deliver any cannabis or cannabis product to a consumer, qualifying patient or caregiver.

(d) Any violation of the provisions of subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall be deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b.

(e) (1) Any municipality may, by vote of its legislative body, prohibit the operation of any business within such municipality that is found to be in violation of the provisions of this section or if such operation poses

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

an immediate threat to public health and safety.

(2) If the chief executive officer of a municipality determines that a business within the municipality is operating in violation of the provisions of this section or poses an immediate threat to public health and safety, the chief executive officer may apply to the Superior Court for an order under subdivision (3) of this subsection and, upon making such application, submit a written copy of such application to the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

(3) Upon an application under subdivision (2) of this subsection, the Superior Court, upon a finding that a business within the municipality is operating in violation of the provisions of this section or poses an immediate threat to public health and safety, may issue forthwith, ex parte and without a hearing, an order that shall direct the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality to summarily close such business, seal the premises of such business and take from such business possession and control of any merchandise related to such violation or immediate threat to public health and safety, which merchandise shall include, but need not be limited to, (A) any cannabis or cannabis product, (B) any cigarette, tobacco, tobacco product, electronic cigarette liquid, electronic nicotine delivery system, [or] liquid nicotine container or nicotine product, (C) any merchandise related to the merchandise described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision, and (D) any proceeds related to the merchandise described in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of this subdivision.

(4) As used in this subsection, "operation" and "operating" mean engaging in the sale of goods and services to the general public, including, but not limited to, through indirect retail sales.

Sec. 54. Section 21a-420d of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(a) There is established a Social Equity Council, which shall be within the Department of Economic and Community Development for administrative purposes only.

(b) The Social Equity Council shall consist of seventeen members as follows:

(1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who has a professional background of not less than five years working in the field of either social justice or civil rights;

(2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who has a professional background of not less than five years working in the field of either social justice or civil rights;

(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who has a professional background of not less than five years working in the field of economic development to help minority-owned businesses;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who has a professional background of not less than five years in providing access to capital to minorities, as defined in section 32-9n;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who is from a community that has been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who has a professional background of not less than five years in providing access to capital to minorities, as defined in section 32-9n;

(7) Two appointed by the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the General Assembly, one of whom shall be designated by the chairperson of the Black Caucus of the General Assembly and one of

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

whom shall be designated by the chairperson of the Puerto Rican and Latino Caucus of the General Assembly;

(8) Five appointed by the Governor, one who is from a community that has been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement, one who has a professional background of not less than five years working in the field of economic development and one who is an executive branch official focused on workforce development;

(9) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's designee;

(10) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the commissioner's designee;

(11) The State Treasurer, or the State Treasurer's designee; and

(12) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee.

(c) (1) In making the appointments in subsection (b) of this section, the appointing authority shall use best efforts to make appointments that reflect the racial, gender and geographic diversity of the population of the state.

(2) Members appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of four years from the time of appointment and members appointed by any other appointing authority shall serve a term of three years from the time of appointment. The appointing authority shall fill any vacancy for the unexpired term.

(3) (A) The Governor shall appoint an interim executive director to operationalize and support the Social Equity Council until, notwithstanding the provisions of section 4-9a, the council appoints an executive director. Subject to the provisions of chapter 67, and within

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

available appropriations, the council may thereafter appoint an executive director and such other employees as may be necessary for the discharge of the duties of the council.

(B) Not later than July 1, 2024, the council shall adopt bylaws specifying which duties are retained by the members of the council and which duties are delegated to the executive director.

(C) The council may, by a simple majority vote of the members of the council, take any formal personnel action concerning the executive director for any reason.

(D) In addition to the council's authority under subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, if a final review board consisting of the chairperson and the members of the council appointed under subdivisions (1), (2), (5) and (6) of subsection (b) of this section determines, by a simple majority vote of the members of the final review board, that removing the executive director is in the best interest of serving the council's mission, such final review board shall issue a letter to the council recommending that the council remove the executive director.

(4) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson of the council from among the members of the council. The chairperson shall directly supervise, establish annual goals for and conduct an annual performance review of the executive director.

(5) The chairperson and executive director shall jointly develop, and the council shall review and approve, (A) allocations of moneys in the social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f, for the purposes that the council determines under subsection (a) of section 21a-420f, further the principles of equity, and (B) any plans for expenditures to provide (i) access to capital for businesses, (ii) technical assistance for the start-up and operation of a business, (iii) funding for workforce education, (iv) funding for community investments, and (v)

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

funding for investments in disproportionately impacted areas.

(d) A majority of the members of the Social Equity Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. The members of the council shall serve without compensation, but shall, within available appropriations, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. Any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings, or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year, may be removed from office by a simple majority vote of the members of the council. The appointing authority shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of any member who is removed from office under this subsection, and shall use best efforts to ensure such appointment reflects the racial, gender and geographic diversity of the population of the state.

(e) The Social Equity Council may (1) request, and shall receive, from any state agency such information and assistance as the council may require to carry out its duties, (2) use such funds as may be available from federal, state or other sources [and may] to carry out its duties, (3) enter into contracts or agreements to carry out [the purposes of the council] its duties, including, but not limited to, contracts or agreements with Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, constituent units of the state system of higher education, regional workforce development boards and community development financial institutions, [(3)] (4) utilize such voluntary and uncompensated services of private individuals, state or federal agencies and organizations as may, from time to time, be offered and needed [, (4)] to carry out its duties, (5) accept any gift, donation or bequest [for the purpose of performing the] to carry out its duties, [of the council, (5)] (6) conduct such investigations as the council may deem necessary to carry out its duties, provided such investigations concern matters, complaints or concerns that (A) are brought before the council by individuals who meet the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (51) of section

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

21a-420, as amended by this act, and (B) relate to the protection, enforcement or advancement of equity under this chapter, (7) hold public hearings, [(6)] (8) establish such standing committees, as necessary, to [perform the] carry out its duties, [of the council,] and [(7)] (9) adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, as the council may deem necessary to carry out [the] its duties. [of the council.]

(f) The Social Equity Council shall promote and encourage full participation in the cannabis industry by persons from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement.

(g) Not later than forty-five days after June 22, 2021, or at a later date determined by the Social Equity Council, the council shall establish criteria for proposals to conduct a study under this section and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall post on the State Contracting Portal a request for proposals to conduct a study, and shall select an independent third party to conduct such study and provide detailed findings of fact regarding the following matters in the state or other matters determined by the council:

(1) Historical and present-day social, economic and familial consequences of cannabis prohibition, the criminalization and stigmatization of cannabis use and related public policies;

(2) Historical and present-day structures, patterns, causes and consequences of intentional and unintentional racial discrimination and racial disparities in the development, application and enforcement of cannabis prohibition and related public policies;

(3) Foreseeable long-term social, economic and familial consequences of unremedied past racial discrimination and disparities arising from past and continued cannabis prohibition, stigmatization and

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

criminalization;

(4) Existing patterns of racial discrimination and racial disparities in access to entrepreneurship, employment and other economic benefits arising in the lawful palliative use cannabis sector as established pursuant to chapter 420f; and

(5) Any other matters that the council deems relevant and feasible for study for the purpose of making reasonable and practical recommendations for the establishment of an equitable and lawful adult-use cannabis business sector in this state.

(h) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Social Equity Council shall, taking into account the results of the study conducted in accordance with subsection (g) of this section, make written recommendations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding, consumer protection and the judiciary regarding legislation to implement the provisions of this section. The council shall make recommendations regarding:

(1) Creating programs to ensure that individuals from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement are provided equal access to licenses for cannabis establishments;

(2) Specifying additional qualifications for social equity applicants;

(3) Providing for expedited or priority license processing for each license as a retailer, hybrid retailer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer, food and beverage manufacturer, product packager, transporter and delivery service license for social equity applicants;

(4) Establishing minimum criteria for any cannabis establishment

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

licensed on or after January 1, 2022, to comply with an approved workforce development plan to reinvest or provide employment and training opportunities for individuals in disproportionately impacted areas;

(5) Establishing criteria for a social equity plan for any cannabis establishment licensed on or after January 1, 2022, to further the principles of equity;

(6) Recruiting individuals from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement to enroll in the workforce training program established pursuant to section 21a-421g;

(7) Potential uses for revenue generated under RERACA to further equity;

(8) Encouraging participation of investors, cannabis establishments and entrepreneurs in the cannabis business accelerator program established pursuant to section 21a-421f;

(9) Establishing a process to best ensure that social equity applicants have access to the capital and training needed to own and operate a cannabis establishment; and

(10) Developing a vendor list of women-owned and minority-owned businesses that cannabis establishments may contract with for necessary services, including, but not limited to, office supplies, information technology infrastructure and cleaning services.

(i) (1) Not later than August 1, 2021, and annually thereafter until July 31, 2023, the Social Equity Council shall use the most recent five-year United States Census Bureau American Community Survey estimates or any successor data to determine one or more United States census tracts in the state that are a disproportionately impacted area and shall

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

publish a list of such tracts on the council's Internet web site.

(2) Not later than August 1, 2023, the council shall use poverty rate data from the most recent five-year United States Census Bureau American Community Survey estimates, population data from the most recent decennial census and conviction information from databases managed by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to identify all United States census tracts in the state that are disproportionately impacted areas and shall publish a list of such tracts on the council's Internet web site. In identifying which census tracts in this state are disproportionately impacted areas and preparing such list, the council shall:

(A) Not deem any census tract with a poverty rate that is less than the state-wide poverty rate to be a disproportionately impacted area;

(B) After eliminating the census tracts described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, rank the remaining census tracts in order from the census tract with the greatest historical conviction rate for drug-related offenses to the census tract with the lowest historical conviction rate for drug-related offenses; and

(C) Include census tracts in the order of rank described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision until including the next census tract would cause the total population of all included census tracts to exceed twenty-five per cent of the state's population.

(j) After developing criteria for workforce development plans as described in subdivision (4) of subsection (h) of this section, the Social Equity Council shall review and approve or deny in writing any such plan submitted by an applicant for a final license. If the Social Equity Council does not approve a workforce development plan for a cannabis establishment on or before July 1, 2025, the cannabis establishment shall submit a workforce development plan to the council not later than

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

October 1, 2025, or sixty days prior to the next renewal date for such cannabis establishment's license, whichever is earlier. Not later than sixty days after the cannabis establishment submits the workforce development plan to the council, the council shall send notice to the cannabis establishment disclosing whether such workforce development plan has been approved, rejected or requires modification.

(k) (1) The Social Equity Council shall develop criteria for evaluating the ownership and control of any equity joint venture created under section 21a-420j, as amended by this act, 21a-420m, as amended by this act, 21a-420u, as amended by this act, 21a-420aa, as amended by this act, [21a-420bbb] 21a-420bb, as amended by this act, or [21a-420ccc] 21a-420cc, as amended by this act, and shall review and approve or deny in writing such equity joint venture prior to such equity joint venture being licensed under section 21a-420j, as amended by this act, 21a-420m, as amended by this act, 21a-420u, as amended by this act, 21a-420aa, as amended by this act, [21a-420bbb] 21a-420bb, as amended by this act, or [21a-420ccc] 21a-420cc, as amended by this act. The council shall not approve any equity joint venture applicant which shares with an equity joint venture any individual owner who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (51) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act, other than an individual owner in their capacity as a backer licensed under section 21a-420o.

(2) No contract entered into or renewed on or after the effective date of this section shall provide that any change may be made in the ownership or control of any equity joint venture created under section 21a-420j, as amended by this act, 21a-420m, as amended by this act, 21a-420u, as amended by this act, 21a-420aa, as amended by this act, 21a-420bb, as amended by this act, or 21a-420cc, as amended by this act, that would cause such equity joint venture not to be controlled, and at least fifty per cent owned, by an individual who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (51) of section 21a-420, as

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

amended by this act, unless:

(A) At least five years have elapsed since a final license was issued to the equity joint venture;

(B) At least ninety days before the effective date of such change, the equity joint venture (i) submits a written notice to the council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, disclosing that the equity joint venture intends to make such change, and (ii) sends a written notice to the individual who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (51) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act, disclosing that such individual may, not later than sixty days before the effective date of such change, submit a written request to the council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, that the council perform an optional nonfinancial review of such change pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision;

(C) If the council receives a written request submitted under subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision, the council, not later than thirty days before the effective date of such change, (i) completes the optional nonfinancial review to determine (I) whether the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision has retained legal counsel to advise such individual regarding such change, understands the structure and implications of such change, understands the financial terms of such change, has engaged with such individual's business partners, if any, to ensure that such change is appropriate and consents to such change free of any coercion or undue pressure, and (II) whether such change complies with the organizational documents of the equity joint venture, and (ii) sends a written notice to the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision and the equity joint venture, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, disclosing the results of such optional nonfinancial review; and

(D) The person acquiring ownership or control of the equity joint

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

venture from the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision has paid to the council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, (i) a nonrefundable transaction processing fee in the amount of eight thousand dollars, which the council shall deposit in the social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f, and (ii) the outstanding balance of all loans issued to the equity joint venture, or the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision, as part of the revolving loan program established pursuant to section 21a-421i.

(3) Nothing in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be construed to authorize the council to delay or reject any change described in said subdivision due to the results of an optional nonfinancial review performed pursuant to subparagraph (C) of said subdivision. Any change made in violation of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be void and of no effect.

(l) The Social Equity Council shall, upon receipt of funds from producers in accordance with subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section 21a-420l, as amended by this act, develop a program to assist social equity applicants to open not more than two micro-cultivator establishment businesses in total. Producers shall provide mentorship to such social equity applicants. The council shall, with the department, determine a system to select social equity applicants to participate in such program without participating in a lottery or request for proposals.

(m) (1) The Social Equity Council shall review and either approve or deny, in writing, any social equity plan submitted by a cannabis establishment as part of the cannabis establishment's final license application. The council shall approve or deny such social equity plan not later than thirty days after such social equity plan is submitted to the council. If the council denies any such social equity plan, the applicant may revise and resubmit such social equity plan without prejudice.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(2) (A) Each licensed cannabis establishment shall (i) maintain an active social equity plan at all times while such cannabis establishment is in operation, and (ii) not later than March [1, 2026, and annually thereafter] first, annually, submit to the council a report disclosing the impact such social equity plan had on the disproportionately impacted area in which such cannabis establishment is located during the preceding calendar year.

(B) The council shall review each report submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision and may, not later than sixty days after completing such review, request that the licensed cannabis establishment that submitted such report revise such cannabis establishment's social equity plan to ensure that such social equity plan furthers the principles of equity.

(3) Not later than July 1, 2024, the council shall update the criteria for social equity plans described in subdivision (5) of subsection (h) of this section to include a specific, points-based rubric to evaluate social equity plans.

(n) The Social Equity Council shall approve the amounts, grantees and purposes of any grants made by the council from the social equity and innovation account or the Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund, established under section 21a-420f, and any contract executed by and between the council and a grant maker shall require that the amounts, grantees and purposes of any subgrants made by such grant maker shall be approved by the council.

(o) Not later than [July 1, 2024, and quarterly thereafter] the first days of January, April, July and October for the preceding calendar quarter, the Social Equity Council shall prepare and submit a quarterly report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the Senate, [and] the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and consumer protection and the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the General Assembly. The report shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) The fiscal-year-to-date expenditures of the council, which expenditures shall disclose, at a minimum: (A) All expenditures made for personal services and the fringe benefit costs associated therewith; (B) all expenditures made for consultants retained for the purpose of reviewing applications for social equity applicant status; (C) all expenditures made to provide businesses with access to capital and the number of businesses that received access to such capital; (D) all expenditures made to provide technical assistance for the start-up and operation of businesses and the number of businesses that received such assistance; (E) all expenditures made to fund workforce education, the number of persons served by the workforce education programs supported by such expenditures and the number of persons successfully placed in relevant professional roles after completing such workforce education programs; (F) all expenditures made to fund community investment grants, the amounts, grantees and purposes of such grants and, if any of such grants were made to a grant maker, the amounts, grantees and purposes of any subgrants made by such grant maker; (G) all expenditures made for promotional or branding items and which promotional or branding items were purchased; (H) all expenditures made for advertising or marketing campaigns; (I) all expenditures made to advertising or marketing firms; (J) all expenditures made for sponsorships; (K) all expenditures made for other community outreach; (L) all expenditures made for travel; and (M) all other expenditures not described in subparagraphs (A) to (L), inclusive, of this subdivision; and

(2) The status of the council's performance of the council's

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

responsibilities in the licensing process under RERACA, including, but not limited to: (A) The number of applications for social equity applicant status, social equity plans and workforce development plans pending before the council, categorized into the number of applications, social equity plans and workforce development plans pending before the council for (i) less than thirty days, (ii) at least thirty days but less than sixty days, (iii) at least sixty days but less than ninety days, and (iv) at least ninety days; (B) the number of applications for social equity applicant status, social equity plans and workforce development plans approved during the then current fiscal year, broken down by license type; and (C) the number of applications for social equity applicant status, social equity plans and workforce development plans denied during the then current fiscal year, broken down by license type.

[(p) Not later than July 1, 2024, and monthly thereafter, the executive director of the council shall prepare and submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the council and the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the General Assembly. The report shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) The expenditures the council plans to make during the month immediately following submission of such report, which expenditures shall disclose, at a minimum: (A) All expenditures the council plans to make for consultants retained for the purpose of reviewing applications for social equity applicant status; (B) all expenditures the council plans to make to fund community investment grants, the amounts, grantees and purposes of such grants and, if any of such grants are to be made to a grant maker, the amounts, grantees and purposes of any subgrants to be made by such grant maker; (C) all expenditures the council plans to make for promotional or branding items, for advertising or marketing campaigns, to advertising or marketing firms and for sponsorships; (D) all expenditures the council plans to make for community outreach; and (E) all expenditures the council plans to make for travel; and

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(2) The status of the council's performance of the council's responsibilities in the licensing process under RERACA, including, but not limited to, the following information for the date of such report: (A) The number of applications for social equity applicant status that are pending before the council and the date each such application was submitted, broken down by license type, municipality, assembly district and senate district; (B) the number of social equity plans that are pending before the council and the date each such social equity plan was submitted, broken down by license type; and (C) the number of workforce development plans that are pending before the council and the date each such workforce development plan was submitted, broken down by license type.]

[(q)] (p) Not later than October 1, 2025, the council shall develop and submit a strategic plan to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and consumer protection. The strategic plan shall include a framework that outlines the council's goals, planned actions and priorities for the three-year period beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2028.

[(r)] (q) Not later than October 1, 2025, the council shall develop and adopt an ethical code of conduct for council members and staff.

[(s)] (r) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the members of the council and council staff shall complete an ethics training course focusing on disproportionately impacted areas and the cannabis industry.

(s) The council shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of subsection (k) of this section and subsection (a) of section 21a-420g, as amended by this act. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to implement the provisions of subsection (k) of this

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

section and subsection (a) of section 21a-420g, as amended by this act, prior to adopting such regulations the council shall, not later than October 1, 2026, issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of subsection (k) of this section and subsection (a) of section 21a-420g, as amended by this act, that shall have the force and effect of law. The council shall post all policies and procedures on its Internet web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of such policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or October 1, 2027, if such regulations have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under section 4-170. Any violation of such policies and procedures or any violation of such regulations related to any change in ownership or control may be referred by the council to the Department of Consumer Protection for administrative enforcement action, which may result in a fine of not more than ten million dollars or action against the cannabis establishment's license.

Sec. 55. Subsections (e) to (s), inclusive, of section 21a-420d of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 54 of this act, are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(e) The Social Equity Council may (1) request, and shall receive, from any state agency such information and assistance as the council may require to carry out its duties, (2) use such funds as may be available from federal, state or other sources to carry out its duties, (3) enter into contracts or agreements to carry out its duties, including, but not limited to, contracts or agreements with Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, constituent units of the state system of higher education, regional workforce development boards and community development financial

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

institutions, (4) utilize such voluntary and uncompensated services of private individuals, state or federal agencies and organizations as may, from time to time, be offered and needed to carry out its duties, (5) accept any gift, donation or bequest to carry out its duties, (6) conduct such investigations as the council may deem necessary to carry out its duties, provided such investigations concern matters, complaints or concerns that (A) are brought before the council by individuals who meet the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(51)] (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act, and (B) relate to the protection, enforcement or advancement of equity under this chapter, (7) hold public hearings, (8) establish such standing committees, as necessary, to carry out its duties, and (9) adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, as the council may deem necessary to carry out its duties.

(f) The Social Equity Council shall promote and encourage full participation in the cannabis industry by persons from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement.

(g) Not later than forty-five days after June 22, 2021, or at a later date determined by the Social Equity Council, the council shall establish criteria for proposals to conduct a study under this section and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall post on the State Contracting Portal a request for proposals to conduct a study, and shall select an independent third party to conduct such study and provide detailed findings of fact regarding the following matters in the state or other matters determined by the council:

(1) Historical and present-day social, economic and familial consequences of cannabis prohibition, the criminalization and stigmatization of cannabis use and related public policies;

(2) Historical and present-day structures, patterns, causes and

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

consequences of intentional and unintentional racial discrimination and racial disparities in the development, application and enforcement of cannabis prohibition and related public policies;

(3) Foreseeable long-term social, economic and familial consequences of unremedied past racial discrimination and disparities arising from past and continued cannabis prohibition, stigmatization and criminalization;

(4) Existing patterns of racial discrimination and racial disparities in access to entrepreneurship, employment and other economic benefits arising in the lawful palliative use cannabis sector as established pursuant to chapter 420f; and

(5) Any other matters that the council deems relevant and feasible for study for the purpose of making reasonable and practical recommendations for the establishment of an equitable and lawful adult-use cannabis business sector in this state.

(h) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Social Equity Council shall, taking into account the results of the study conducted in accordance with subsection (g) of this section, make written recommendations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding, consumer protection and the judiciary regarding legislation to implement the provisions of this section. The council shall make recommendations regarding:

(1) Creating programs to ensure that individuals from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement are provided equal access to licenses for cannabis establishments;

(2) Specifying additional qualifications for social equity applicants;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(3) Providing for expedited or priority license processing for each license as a retailer, hybrid retailer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer, food and beverage manufacturer, product packager, transporter and delivery service license for social equity applicants;

(4) Establishing minimum criteria for any cannabis establishment licensed on or after January 1, 2022, to comply with an approved workforce development plan to reinvest or provide employment and training opportunities for individuals in disproportionately impacted areas;

(5) Establishing criteria for a social equity plan for any cannabis establishment licensed on or after January 1, 2022, to further the principles of equity;

(6) Recruiting individuals from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement to enroll in the workforce training program established pursuant to section 21a-421g;

(7) Potential uses for revenue generated under RERACA to further equity;

(8) Encouraging participation of investors, cannabis establishments and entrepreneurs in the cannabis business accelerator program established pursuant to section 21a-421f;

(9) Establishing a process to best ensure that social equity applicants have access to the capital and training needed to own and operate a cannabis establishment; and

(10) Developing a vendor list of women-owned and minority-owned businesses that cannabis establishments may contract with for necessary services, including, but not limited to, office supplies, information technology infrastructure and cleaning services.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(i) (1) Not later than August 1, 2021, and annually thereafter until July 31, 2023, the Social Equity Council shall use the most recent five-year United States Census Bureau American Community Survey estimates or any successor data to determine one or more United States census tracts in the state that are a disproportionately impacted area and shall publish a list of such tracts on the council's Internet web site.

(2) Not later than August 1, 2023, the council shall use poverty rate data from the most recent five-year United States Census Bureau American Community Survey estimates, population data from the most recent decennial census and conviction information from databases managed by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to identify all United States census tracts in the state that are disproportionately impacted areas and shall publish a list of such tracts on the council's Internet web site. In identifying which census tracts in this state are disproportionately impacted areas and preparing such list, the council shall:

(A) Not deem any census tract with a poverty rate that is less than the state-wide poverty rate to be a disproportionately impacted area;

(B) After eliminating the census tracts described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, rank the remaining census tracts in order from the census tract with the greatest historical conviction rate for drug-related offenses to the census tract with the lowest historical conviction rate for drug-related offenses; and

(C) Include census tracts in the order of rank described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision until including the next census tract would cause the total population of all included census tracts to exceed twenty-five per cent of the state's population.

(j) After developing criteria for workforce development plans as described in subdivision (4) of subsection (h) of this section, the Social

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

Equity Council shall review and approve or deny in writing any such plan submitted by an applicant for a final license. If the Social Equity Council does not approve a workforce development plan for a cannabis establishment on or before July 1, 2025, the cannabis establishment shall submit a workforce development plan to the council not later than October 1, 2025, or sixty days prior to the next renewal date for such cannabis establishment's license, whichever is earlier. Not later than sixty days after the cannabis establishment submits the workforce development plan to the council, the council shall send notice to the cannabis establishment disclosing whether such workforce development plan has been approved, rejected or requires modification.

(k) (1) The Social Equity Council shall develop criteria for evaluating the ownership and control of any equity joint venture created under section 21a-420j, as amended by this act, 21a-420m, as amended by this act, 21a-420u, as amended by this act, 21a-420aa, as amended by this act, 21a-420bb, as amended by this act, or 21a-420cc, as amended by this act, and shall review and approve or deny in writing such equity joint venture prior to such equity joint venture being licensed under section 21a-420j, as amended by this act, 21a-420m, as amended by this act, 21a-420u, as amended by this act, 21a-420aa, as amended by this act, 21a-420bb, as amended by this act, or 21a-420cc, as amended by this act. The council shall not approve any equity joint venture applicant which shares with an equity joint venture any individual owner who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(51)] (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act, other than an individual owner in their capacity as a backer licensed under section 21a-420o.

(2) No contract entered into or renewed on or after the effective date of this section shall provide that any change may be made in the ownership or control of any equity joint venture created under section 21a-420j, as amended by this act, 21a-420m, as amended by this act, 21a-420u, as amended by this act, 21a-420aa, as amended by this act, 21a-

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

420bb, as amended by this act, or 21a-420cc, as amended by this act, that would cause such equity joint venture not to be controlled, and at least fifty per cent owned, by an individual who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(51)] (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act, unless:

(A) At least five years have elapsed since a final license was issued to the equity joint venture;

(B) At least ninety days before the effective date of such change, the equity joint venture (i) submits a written notice to the council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, disclosing that the equity joint venture intends to make such change, and (ii) sends a written notice to the individual who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(51)] (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act, disclosing that such individual may, not later than sixty days before the effective date of such change, submit a written request to the council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, that the council perform an optional nonfinancial review of such change pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision;

(C) If the council receives a written request submitted under subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision, the council, not later than thirty days before the effective date of such change, (i) completes the optional nonfinancial review to determine (I) whether the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision has retained legal counsel to advise such individual regarding such change, understands the structure and implications of such change, understands the financial terms of such change, has engaged with such individual's business partners, if any, to ensure that such change is appropriate and consents to such change free of any coercion or undue pressure, and (II) whether such change complies with the organizational documents of the equity joint venture, and (ii) sends a written notice to the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision and the equity joint venture,

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

in a form and manner prescribed by the council, disclosing the results of such optional nonfinancial review; and

(D) The person acquiring ownership or control of the equity joint venture from the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision has paid to the council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, (i) a nonrefundable transaction processing fee in the amount of eight thousand dollars, which the council shall deposit in the social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f, and (ii) the outstanding balance of all loans issued to the equity joint venture, or the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision, as part of the revolving loan program established pursuant to section 21a-421i.

(3) Nothing in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be construed to authorize the council to delay or reject any change described in said subdivision due to the results of an optional nonfinancial review performed pursuant to subparagraph (C) of said subdivision. Any change made in violation of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be void and of no effect.

(l) The Social Equity Council shall, upon receipt of funds from producers in accordance with subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section 21a-420l, as amended by this act, develop a program to assist social equity applicants to open not more than two micro-cultivator establishment businesses in total. Producers shall provide mentorship to such social equity applicants. The council shall, with the department, determine a system to select social equity applicants to participate in such program without participating in a lottery or request for proposals.

(m) (1) The Social Equity Council shall review and either approve or deny, in writing, any social equity plan submitted by a cannabis establishment as part of the cannabis establishment's final license application. The council shall approve or deny such social equity plan

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

not later than thirty days after such social equity plan is submitted to the council. If the council denies any such social equity plan, the applicant may revise and resubmit such social equity plan without prejudice.

(2) (A) Each licensed cannabis establishment shall (i) maintain an active social equity plan at all times while such cannabis establishment is in operation, and (ii) not later than March first, annually, submit to the council a report disclosing the impact such social equity plan had on the disproportionately impacted area in which such cannabis establishment is located during the preceding calendar year.

(B) The council shall review each report submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision and may, not later than sixty days after completing such review, request that the licensed cannabis establishment that submitted such report revise such cannabis establishment's social equity plan to ensure that such social equity plan furthers the principles of equity.

(3) Not later than July 1, 2024, the council shall update the criteria for social equity plans described in subdivision (5) of subsection (h) of this section to include a specific, points-based rubric to evaluate social equity plans.

(n) The Social Equity Council shall approve the amounts, grantees and purposes of any grants made by the council from the social equity and innovation account or the Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund, established under section 21a-420f, and any contract executed by and between the council and a grant maker shall require that the amounts, grantees and purposes of any subgrants made by such grant maker shall be approved by the council.

(o) Not later than the first days of January, April, July and October for the preceding calendar quarter, the Social Equity Council shall

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

prepare and submit a quarterly report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the Senate, the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and consumer protection and the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the General Assembly. The report shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) The fiscal-year-to-date expenditures of the council, which expenditures shall disclose, at a minimum: (A) All expenditures made for personal services and the fringe benefit costs associated therewith; (B) all expenditures made for consultants retained for the purpose of reviewing applications for social equity applicant status; (C) all expenditures made to provide businesses with access to capital and the number of businesses that received access to such capital; (D) all expenditures made to provide technical assistance for the start-up and operation of businesses and the number of businesses that received such assistance; (E) all expenditures made to fund workforce education, the number of persons served by the workforce education programs supported by such expenditures and the number of persons successfully placed in relevant professional roles after completing such workforce education programs; (F) all expenditures made to fund community investment grants, the amounts, grantees and purposes of such grants and, if any of such grants were made to a grant maker, the amounts, grantees and purposes of any subgrants made by such grant maker; (G) all expenditures made for promotional or branding items and which promotional or branding items were purchased; (H) all expenditures made for advertising or marketing campaigns; (I) all expenditures made to advertising or marketing firms; (J) all expenditures made for sponsorships; (K) all expenditures made for other community outreach;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(L) all expenditures made for travel; and (M) all other expenditures not described in subparagraphs (A) to (L), inclusive, of this subdivision; and

(2) The status of the council's performance of the council's responsibilities in the licensing process under RERACA, including, but not limited to: (A) The number of applications for social equity applicant status, social equity plans and workforce development plans pending before the council, categorized into the number of applications, social equity plans and workforce development plans pending before the council for (i) less than thirty days, (ii) at least thirty days but less than sixty days, (iii) at least sixty days but less than ninety days, and (iv) at least ninety days; (B) the number of applications for social equity applicant status, social equity plans and workforce development plans approved during the then current fiscal year, broken down by license type; and (C) the number of applications for social equity applicant status, social equity plans and workforce development plans denied during the then current fiscal year, broken down by license type.

(p) Not later than October 1, 2025, the council shall develop and submit a strategic plan to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and consumer protection. The strategic plan shall include a framework that outlines the council's goals, planned actions and priorities for the three-year period beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2028.

(q) Not later than October 1, 2025, the council shall develop and adopt an ethical code of conduct for council members and staff.

(r) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the members of the council and council staff shall complete an ethics training course focusing on disproportionately impacted areas and the cannabis industry.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(s) The council shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of subsection (k) of this section and subsection (a) of section 21a-420g, as amended by this act. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to implement the provisions of subsection (k) of this section and subsection (a) of section 21a-420g, as amended by this act, prior to adopting such regulations the council shall, not later than October 1, 2026, issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of subsection (k) of this section and subsection (a) of section 21a-420g, as amended by this act, that shall have the force and effect of law. The council shall post all policies and procedures on its Internet web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of such policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or October 1, 2027, if such regulations have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under section 4-170. Any violation of such policies and procedures or any violation of such regulations related to any change in ownership or control may be referred by the council to the Department of Consumer Protection for administrative enforcement action, which may result in a fine of not more than ten million dollars or action against the cannabis establishment's license.

Sec. 56. Subsection (a) of section 21a-420g of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Social Equity Council shall review the ownership information and any other information necessary to confirm that an applicant qualifies as a social equity applicant for all cannabis establishment license type applications submitted to the department and designated

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

by the applicant as a social equity applicant. The Social Equity Council shall prescribe the documentation necessary for applicants to submit to establish that the ownership, residency and income requirements for social equity applicants are met. On or before September 1, 2021, the Social Equity Council shall post such necessary documentation requirements on its Internet web site to inform applicants of such requirements prior to the start of the application period. Except as provided in the regulations adopted by the council pursuant to section 21a-420h, as amended by this act, no change shall be made in the ownership or control of a social equity applicant that has been approved by the council during the period of provisional licensure and for three years following issuance of a final license.

Sec. 57. Subsection (g) of section 21a-420g of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(g) (1) No additional backers may be added to a cannabis establishment application between the time of lottery entry, or any initial application for a license, and when a final license is awarded to the cannabis establishment, except: [, if]

(A) If a backer of an applicant or provisional licensee dies, the applicant or provisional licensee may apply to the commissioner, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, to replace the deceased backer, provided if such applicant or provisional licensee is a social equity applicant, the Social Equity Council shall review ownership to ensure such replacement would not [cause the applicant to no longer qualify] disqualify such applicant or provisional licensee as a social equity applicant; and

(B) An applicant or provisional licensee that is a social equity applicant may apply to the commissioner, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, for a one-time replacement of an

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

original backer, provided the original backer to be replaced is not an individual who meets the criteria of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act.

(2) A backer may be removed from a cannabis establishment application selected through the general lottery at any time upon notice to the department.

Sec. 58. Section 21a-420h of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

The Social Equity Council shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to prevent the sale or change in ownership or control of a cannabis establishment license awarded to a social equity applicant to someone other than another qualifying social equity applicant during the period of provisional licensure, and for three years following the issuance of a final license, unless the backer of such licensee has died or has a condition, including, but not limited to, a physical illness or loss of skill or deterioration due to the aging process, emotional disorder or mental illness that would interfere with the backer's ability to operate. If the council approves any sale or change in ownership or control of a cannabis establishment license awarded to a social equity applicant during the three-year period following issuance of a final license, and such sale or change in ownership or control is made to anyone other than another qualifying social equity applicant, the cannabis establishment licensee shall be treated as a cannabis establishment licensee without social equity status beginning on the date of such approval and such cannabis licensee shall no longer be eligible to pay a reduced license renewal fee. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate this section, prior to adopting such regulations and not later than October 1, 2021, the council shall issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of this section that shall have the force and

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

effect of law. The council shall post all policies and procedures on its Internet web site and submit such policies and procedures to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection and the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or [sixty-three months from July 1, 2021] July 1, 2028. Any violation of such policies and procedures or any violation of such regulations related to the sale or change in ownership may be referred by the Social Equity Council to the department for administrative enforcement action, which may result in a fine of not more than ten million dollars or action against the establishment's license.

Sec. 59. Subsection (d) of section 21a-420j of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of subsection (k) of section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, a cultivator licensed under section 21a-420o, including the backer of such cultivator, shall not increase its ownership in an equity joint venture in excess of fifty per cent during the seven-year period after a license is issued by the department under this section.

(2) A cultivator licensed under section 21a-420o who satisfies the criteria established in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 21a-420o, including the backer of such cultivator, shall not, except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (k) of section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, increase its ownership in an equity joint venture in excess of fifty per cent during the seven-year period beginning on the date on which a final license is issued by the department under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 21a-420o.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

Sec. 60. Subsection (b) of section 21a-420l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(b) To obtain approval from the commissioner to engage in expanded activity as described in subsection (a) of this section, a producer shall submit (1) a complete license expansion application on a form prescribed by the commissioner, (2) a medical cannabis preservation plan, to ensure against supply shortages of medical cannabis products, which shall be approved or denied at the commissioner's discretion, (3) payment of a conversion fee of three million dollars, provided, if the producer participates in at least two approved equity joint ventures as described in section 21a-420m, as amended by this act, such fee shall be one million five hundred thousand dollars, (4) a workforce development plan in accordance with requirements developed by the Social Equity Council, that has been reviewed and approved by the Social Equity Council in accordance with section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, and (5) (A) a contribution of five hundred thousand dollars to the Social Equity Council for the program established by the council in accordance with subsection (l) of section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, or (B) evidence of an agreement with a social equity partner pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

Sec. 61. Subsection (b) of section 21a-420m of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(b) The equity joint venture shall be in any cannabis establishment licensed business, other than a cultivator license, provided such equity joint venture is at least fifty per cent owned and controlled by an individual or individuals who meet, or the equity joint venture applicant is an individual who meets, the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(51)] (54) of section 21a-420,

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

as amended by this act.

Sec. 62. Subsection (e) of section 21a-420m of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(e) [A] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (k) of section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, a producer, including the backer of such producer, shall not increase its ownership in an equity joint venture in excess of fifty per cent during the seven-year period after a license is issued by the department under this section.

Sec. 63. Subsection (d) of section 21a-420n of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(d) A cultivator may sell, transfer or transport its cannabis to a cannabis establishment, research program or cannabis testing laboratory utilizing its own employees or a transporter. A cultivator shall not sell, transfer or deliver to consumers, qualifying patients, [or] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers or qualifying out-of-state caregivers, directly or through a delivery service.

Sec. 64. Subsections (f) and (g) of section 21a-420p of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(f) (1) A micro-cultivator may sell cannabis seedlings cultivated at its micro-cultivator establishment directly to consumers, excluding qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers, solely through delivery by either utilizing a delivery service or its own employees, subject to the requirements of subsection (c) of section 21a-420c, as amended by this act. No cannabis establishment other than a micro-cultivator shall sell cannabis seedlings to consumers, and no cannabis establishment other

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

than a delivery service or a micro-cultivator utilizing its own employees shall deliver cannabis seedlings cultivated and sold by a micro-cultivator to consumers.

(2) No micro-cultivator shall sell a cannabis seedling to a consumer unless:

(A) The micro-cultivator cultivated the cannabis seedling in this state from seed or clone;

(B) The cannabis seedling (i) has a standing height of not more than six inches measured from the base of the stem to the tallest point of the plant, (ii) does not contain any bud or flower, and (iii) has been tested for pesticides and heavy metals in accordance with the laboratory testing standards established in the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by the commissioner pursuant to section 21a-421j, as amended by this act; and

(C) A label or informational tag is affixed to the cannabis seedling disclosing the following in legible English, black lettering, Times New Roman font, flat regular typeface, on a contrasting background and in uniform size of not less than one-tenth of one inch, based on a capital letter "K":

(i) The name of the micro-cultivator;

(ii) A product description for the cannabis seedling;

(iii) One of the following chemotypes anticipated after flowering: (I) "High THC, Low CBD"; (II) "Low THC, High CBD"; or (III) "50/50 THC and CBD";

(iv) The results of the testing required under subparagraph (B)(iii) of this subdivision;

(v) Directions for optimal care of the cannabis seedling;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(vi) Unobscured symbols, in a size of not less than one-half inch by one-half inch and in a format approved by the commissioner, which symbols shall indicate that the cannabis seedling contains THC and is not legal or safe for individuals younger than twenty-one years of age; and

(vii) A unique identifier generated by a cannabis analytic tracking system maintained by the department and used to track cannabis under the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by the commissioner pursuant to section 21a-421j, as amended by this act.

(3) Notwithstanding section 21a-421j, as amended by this act, no cannabis seedling shall be required to be sold in child-resistant packaging.

(4) No micro-cultivator shall knowingly sell more than three cannabis seedlings to a consumer in any six-month period.

(5) No micro-cultivator shall accept any returned cannabis seedling.

(g) (1) A micro-cultivator that has obtained a final license from the department pursuant to this section and maintains an exclusively indoor grow facility may submit an application to the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, for a retailer or hybrid retailer endorsement to such final license under this subsection. Such endorsement, if issued, shall authorize the micro-cultivator to operate a retailer or hybrid retailer pursuant to this subsection. An applicant micro-cultivator shall submit a complete application for an endorsement under this subsection, along with the endorsement application fee, to the department not later than one year after the date on which the applicant micro-cultivator obtained a final micro-cultivator license from the department pursuant to this section or June 30, 2026, whichever is later. The department shall not accept an application submitted pursuant to this subsection after such time period

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

has expired. The amount of the application fee for an endorsement under this subsection shall be the same as the fee imposed to receive a final retailer license or a final hybrid retailer license set forth in subsections (c) and (d) of section 21a-420e. All application fees for an initial endorsement under this subsection shall be deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established in section 21a-8a. The annual renewal fee for an endorsement issued under this subsection shall be the same as the renewal fee for a final retailer license or a final hybrid retailer license set forth in subsections (c) and (d) of section 21a-420e.

(2) The department shall issue an endorsement to a micro-cultivator pursuant to this subsection if the micro-cultivator:

(A) Submits a timely and complete endorsement application to the department, in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner;

(B) Attests that the retailer or hybrid retailer created pursuant to the endorsement shall be operated in compliance with all requirements established in this chapter for a licensed retailer or a licensed hybrid retailer; and

(C) Acknowledges and attests that such micro-cultivator shall not engage in any outdoor cultivation of cannabis.

(3) Each micro-cultivator that is issued an endorsement under this subsection shall have twenty-four months from the date such endorsement is issued to (A) satisfy the requirements established in section 21a-420g, as amended by this act, for a retailer or hybrid retailer that has been issued a final license, and (B) seek and obtain a written statement from the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, confirming that such micro-cultivator satisfies such requirements and is authorized to engage in the activities of a retailer or hybrid retailer.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(4) An endorsement issued pursuant to this subsection shall expire and shall not be eligible for reapplication or renewal if the micro-cultivator (A) fails to satisfy the requirements established in subdivision (3) of this subsection, or (B) allows such endorsement to lapse.

(5) The facility of a retailer or hybrid retailer established pursuant to an endorsement issued pursuant to this subsection shall be located (A) on the same premises as the micro-cultivator, [or] (B) on a tract of land or parcel that abuts [such] the premises of the micro-cultivator or is located within one hundred feet of such premises measured from the point on such tract of land or parcel that is closest to such premises, or (C) on a tract of land or parcel that abuts the premises of the micro-cultivator or is located within the same disproportionately impacted area as such premises.

(6) Upon receipt of a written statement from the department as set forth in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (3) of this subsection, the micro-cultivator shall:

(A) (i) In the case of a retailer endorsement, be authorized to sell cannabis cultivated indoors by the micro-cultivator to consumers, or (ii) in the case of a hybrid retailer endorsement, be authorized to sell (I) cannabis cultivated indoors by the micro-cultivator to consumers, and (II) medical [marijuana] cannabis products to qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers;

(B) Acknowledge and agree that such micro-cultivator is not eligible to expand to a cultivator license, as provided in this section;

(C) Maintain the retailer's or hybrid-retailer's activities and facility in accordance with the requirements established in this chapter, chapter 420f and the regulations, policies and procedures adopted or issued pursuant to said chapters, as applicable; and

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(D) Acknowledge and agree that in the event that an administrative agency or court of competent jurisdiction issues a suspension, revocation, cease and desist order or other order halting the micro-cultivator's operations, the micro-cultivator shall cease all public retailer or hybrid-retailer activities associated with the retailer or hybrid retailer endorsement issued pursuant to this subsection.

(7) A micro-cultivator that is issued an endorsement under this subsection may (A) in the case of a retailer endorsement, sell cannabis cultivated by the micro-cultivator directly to consumers by utilizing a delivery service or its own employees, subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of section 21a-420c, as amended by this act, provided such micro-cultivator shall exclusively sell cannabis cultivated by such micro-cultivator, and (B) in the case of a hybrid retailer endorsement, (i) sell medical [marijuana] cannabis products directly to qualifying patients and caregivers by utilizing a delivery service, subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of section 21a-420c, as amended by this act, (ii) sell medical cannabis products directly to qualifying out-of-state patients and qualifying out-of-state caregivers, and (iii) sell cannabis cultivated by such micro-cultivator directly to consumers, by utilizing a delivery service or its own employees, subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of section 21a-420c, as amended by this act.

(8) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a micro-cultivator with an active endorsement issued under this subsection shall not exceed twenty-five thousand square feet of grow space and shall not be eligible to convert to a cultivator unless the micro-cultivator permanently surrenders such endorsement and ceases all retailer and hybrid retailer activities at the cannabis establishment.

(9) An endorsement issued under this subsection shall not impact any right a micro-cultivator may have to create an equity joint venture.

Sec. 65. Section 21a-420q of the 2026 supplement to the general

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
(Effective July 1, 2026):

The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish the maximum grow space permitted by a cultivator and micro-cultivator. In adopting such regulations, the commissioner shall seek to ensure an adequate supply of cannabis for the market. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate this section, prior to adopting such regulations, the commissioner shall issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of this section that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site and submit such policies and procedures to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection and the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or [sixty-three months from July 1, 2021] July 1, 2028.

Sec. 66. Section 21a-420r of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
(Effective October 1, 2026):

(a) [On and after July 1, 2021, the] The department may issue or renew a license for a person to be a retailer. No person may act as a retailer or represent that such person is a retailer unless such person has obtained a license from the department pursuant to this section.

(b) A retailer may obtain cannabis from a cultivator, micro-cultivator, producer, product packager, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer or transporter or an undeliverable return from a delivery

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

service. A retailer may sell, transport or transfer cannabis or cannabis products to a cannabis establishment, cannabis testing laboratory or research program. A retailer may sell cannabis to a consumer or research program. A retailer may not conduct sales of medical [marijuana] cannabis products, except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, nor offer discounts or other inducements to qualifying patients, [or] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers or qualifying out-of-state caregivers. A retailer shall not gift or transfer cannabis at no cost to a consumer as part of a commercial transaction.

(c) Retailers shall maintain a secure location, in a manner approved by the commissioner, at the licensee's premises where cannabis that is unable to be delivered by an employee or delivery service may be returned to the retailer. Such secure cannabis return location shall meet specifications set forth by the commissioner and published on the department's Internet web site or included in regulations adopted by the department.

(d) A retailer may deliver cannabis through a delivery service or by utilizing its own employees, subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of section 21a-420c, as amended by this act.

(e) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter and chapter 420f, and except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a retailer may sell the following palliative use cannabis products to consumers:

(A) Cannabis concentrates;

(B) Topical treatments, excluding transdermal patches;

(C) Creams;

(D) Tablets and capsules;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(E) Rosins; and

(F) Products intended for sublingual absorption.

(2) Producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product packagers, product manufacturers and food and beverage manufacturers shall reserve the palliative use cannabis products set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection for sale exclusively to dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers for at least fourteen days after such palliative use cannabis products are released to the market.

(3) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to allow sales of additional palliative use cannabis products to consumers in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

[(e)] (f) Manufacturer hemp products, as defined in section 22-61l, as amended by this act, may be sold within a retailer facility, provided such manufacturer hemp products are:

(1) Stored separately from cannabis and cannabis products;

(2) Separated, by a physical separation, from cannabis and cannabis products in any display area;

(3) Displayed with signage approved by the department;

(4) Tested by a laboratory that meets the standards for accreditation and testing, and sampling methods, set forth for an independent testing laboratory in section 22-61m, as amended by this act, which laboratory may be located outside of this state;

(5) Clearly labeled to distinguish the product as (A) a manufacturer hemp product, (B) subject to different testing standards than cannabis, and (C) not cannabis or a cannabis product; and

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(6) Sold in accordance with this chapter, chapter 424 and any regulations adopted pursuant to said chapters.

(g) No retailer shall retain any personal data the retailer obtains from a consumer for the purposes of age verification for longer than twenty-four hours without the consumer's express written consent.

Sec. 67. Subsections (c) to (g), inclusive, of section 21a-420s of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) In addition to conducting general retail sales, a hybrid retailer may sell cannabis and medical marijuana products to qualifying patients and caregivers. Any cannabis or medical marijuana products sold to qualifying patients and caregivers shall be [dispensed by a licensed pharmacist and shall be] recorded in the electronic prescription drug monitoring program, established pursuant to section 21a-254, in real-time or immediately upon completion of the transaction, unless not reasonably feasible for a specific transaction, but in no case longer than one hour after completion of the transaction. Only a licensed pharmacist or dispensary technician under the direction of a licensed pharmacist may upload [or access data in the prescription drug monitoring] data to such program, except such upload may be accomplished by way of an automated upload from the hybrid retailer's point-of-sale system. A licensed pharmacist shall conduct a daily audit of the data uploaded to such program pursuant to this subsection. All other authorized activities of the hybrid retailer, including, but not limited to, all such activities performed in connection with the sale, handling or management of cannabis or medical marijuana products, may be performed by a licensed pharmacist, dispensary technician or other registered employee of the hybrid retailer.

(d) (1) A hybrid retailer shall [maintain] ensure that a licensed pharmacist [on premises for at least eight consecutive hours per

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

calendar week] is available, either in-person or remotely, when the hybrid [retail] retailer location is open to the public or to qualifying patients and caregivers. [At all times while a hybrid retailer location is open to the public and a licensed pharmacist is not physically present on premises and available for qualifying patient and caregiver consultations, the] The hybrid retailer shall ensure that a licensed pharmacist is readily available to [(A)] provide telehealth consultations for qualifying patients and caregivers [, and (B) conduct remote order entry verification in accordance with regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to section 20-576, which remote order entry verification shall only be conducted by a licensed pharmacist in compliance with all remote order entry verification requirements established in regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to section 20-576] and, upon request by qualifying patients or caregivers, in-person consultations for qualifying patients or caregivers. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require a hybrid retailer to maintain a licensed pharmacist at the hybrid retailer location for more than thirty-five hours per week either in-person or remotely.

(2) A hybrid retailer that offers telehealth consultations with a licensed pharmacist shall (A) [employ such pharmacist for at least twenty hours per calendar week, (B)] maintain technology that is capable of facilitating such telehealth consultations, and [(C)] (B) make such telehealth consultations readily available and accessible to qualifying patients and caregivers, including, but not limited to, by telephone from a remote location outside of the hybrid retailer location and from the private consultation space required under subsection (e) of this section.

(3) Each hybrid retailer shall conspicuously post and maintain a sign at the main entrance of the hybrid retailer location, which sign shall (A) be at least twelve inches in height and eighteen inches in width, (B) incorporate lettering in a size and style that is clear and legible, and (C)

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

state the name of the licensed pharmacist who is available for qualifying patient and caregiver consultations either in-person or through telehealth.

(4) Each hybrid retailer shall conspicuously post and maintain a sign at each register or comparable point of sale within the hybrid retailer location, and on any Internet web site maintained by such hybrid retailer, which sign shall (A) be at least eight inches in height and ten inches in width, (B) incorporate lettering in a size and style that is clear and legible, and (C) state "Pharmacist available for consultation" in a clear and legible manner.

[(5) Each licensed pharmacist who consults with qualifying patients or caregivers shall annually complete not less than five contact hours of continuing professional education, as set forth in section 20-600, related to the cannabis industry, the pharmacy laws of this state or the treatment of debilitating medical conditions, as defined in section 21a-408. Such contact hours shall be included in, and not be in addition to, the fifteen contact hours required under section 20-600.]

(5) No registered employee of a hybrid retailer shall sell any cannabis or medical marijuana product to a qualifying patient or caregiver, unless such registered employee has completed at least (A) one hour of education concerning the types, availability, dosage and methods of administration of cannabis products, (B) one hour of education concerning professional ethics, (C) one hour of education concerning state and federal laws and regulations concerning patient privacy, and (D) one hour of education concerning developments in the use of medical marijuana products.

(e) The hybrid retailer location shall include a private consultation space for pharmacists to meet with qualifying patients and caregivers. Each hybrid retailer shall conspicuously display, on the exterior of the hybrid retailer location, a symbol that denotes the sale of medical

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

marijuana products, which symbol shall be in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner and posted on the department's Internet web site. Additionally, the hybrid retailer premises shall accommodate an expedited method of entry that allows for priority entrance into the premises for qualifying patients and caregivers.

(f) Hybrid retailers shall maintain a secure location, in a manner approved by the commissioner, at the licensee's premises where cannabis that is unable to be delivered may be returned to the hybrid retailer. Such secure cannabis return location shall meet specifications set forth by the commissioner and published on the department's Internet web site or included in regulations adopted by the department.

(g) Cannabis [dispensed] sold to a qualifying patient or caregiver that is unable to be delivered and is returned by the delivery service to the hybrid retailer shall be returned to the licensee inventory system and removed from the prescription drug monitoring program not later than forty-eight hours after receipt of the cannabis from the delivery service.

Sec. 68. Section 21a-420s of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 67 of this act, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) The department may issue or renew a license for a hybrid retailer. No person may act as a hybrid retailer or represent that such person is a hybrid retailer unless such person has obtained a license from the department pursuant to this section.

(b) A hybrid retailer may obtain cannabis from a cultivator, micro-cultivator, producer, product packager, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer or transporter. In addition to the activities authorized under section 21a-420t, as amended by this act, a hybrid retailer may sell, transport or transfer cannabis to a cannabis establishment, cannabis testing laboratory or research program. A

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

hybrid retailer may sell cannabis products to a consumer or research program. A hybrid retailer shall not gift or transfer cannabis at no cost to a consumer, qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver as part of a commercial transaction.

(c) In addition to conducting general retail sales, a hybrid retailer may sell cannabis and medical [marijuana] cannabis products to qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers. Any cannabis or medical [marijuana] cannabis products sold to qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers shall be recorded in the electronic prescription drug monitoring program, established pursuant to section 21a-254, in real-time or immediately upon completion of the transaction, unless not reasonably feasible for a specific transaction, but in no case longer than one hour after completion of the transaction. Only a licensed pharmacist or dispensary technician under the direction of a licensed pharmacist may upload data to such program, except such upload may be accomplished by way of an automated upload from the hybrid retailer's point-of-sale system. A licensed pharmacist shall conduct a daily audit of the data uploaded to such program pursuant to this subsection. All other authorized activities of the hybrid retailer, including, but not limited to, all such activities performed in connection with the sale, handling or management of cannabis or medical [marijuana] cannabis products, may be performed by a licensed pharmacist, dispensary technician or other registered employee of the hybrid retailer.

(d) (1) A hybrid retailer shall ensure that a licensed pharmacist is available, either in-person or remotely, when the hybrid retailer location is open to the public or to qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers. The hybrid retailer shall ensure that a licensed pharmacist is readily

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

available to provide telehealth consultations for qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers and upon request by qualifying patients, [or] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers or qualifying out-of-state caregivers, in-person consultations for qualifying patients, [or] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers or qualifying out-of-state caregivers. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require a hybrid retailer to maintain a licensed pharmacist at the hybrid retailer location for more than thirty-five hours per week either in-person or remotely.

(2) A hybrid retailer that offers telehealth consultations with a licensed pharmacist shall (A) maintain technology that is capable of facilitating such telehealth consultations, and (B) make such telehealth consultations readily available and accessible to qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers, including, but not limited to, by telephone from a remote location outside of the hybrid retailer location and from the private consultation space required under subsection (e) of this section.

(3) Each hybrid retailer shall conspicuously post and maintain a sign at the main entrance of the hybrid retailer location, which sign shall (A) be at least twelve inches in height and eighteen inches in width, (B) incorporate lettering in a size and style that is clear and legible, and (C) state the name of the licensed pharmacist who is available for qualifying patient, [and] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver and qualifying out-of-state caregiver consultations either in-person or through telehealth.

(4) Each hybrid retailer shall conspicuously post and maintain a sign at each register or comparable point of sale within the hybrid retailer location, and on any Internet web site maintained by such hybrid retailer, which sign shall (A) be at least eight inches in height and ten inches in width, (B) incorporate lettering in a size and style that is clear and legible, and (C) state "Pharmacist available for consultation" in a

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

clear and legible manner.

(5) No registered employee of a hybrid retailer shall sell any cannabis or medical [marijuana] cannabis product to a qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver, unless such registered employee has completed at least (A) one hour of education concerning the types, availability, dosage and methods of administration of cannabis products, (B) one hour of education concerning professional ethics, (C) one hour of education concerning state and federal laws and regulations concerning patient privacy, and (D) one hour of education concerning developments in the use of medical [marijuana] cannabis products.

(e) The hybrid retailer location shall include a private consultation space for pharmacists to meet with qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers. Each hybrid retailer shall conspicuously display, on the exterior of the hybrid retailer location, a symbol that denotes the sale of medical [marijuana] cannabis products, which symbol shall be in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner and posted on the department's Internet web site. Additionally, the hybrid retailer premises shall accommodate an expedited method of entry that allows for priority entrance into the premises for qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers.

(f) Hybrid retailers shall maintain a secure location, in a manner approved by the commissioner, at the licensee's premises where cannabis that is unable to be delivered may be returned to the hybrid retailer. Such secure cannabis return location shall meet specifications set forth by the commissioner and published on the department's Internet web site or included in regulations adopted by the department.

(g) Cannabis sold to a qualifying patient or caregiver that is unable to be delivered and is returned by the delivery service to the hybrid retailer

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

shall be returned to the licensee inventory system and removed from the prescription drug monitoring program not later than forty-eight hours after receipt of the cannabis from the delivery service.

(h) A hybrid retailer may not convert its license to a retailer license. To obtain a retailer license, a hybrid retailer shall apply through the lottery application process. A hybrid retailer may convert to a dispensary facility, provided the hybrid retailer complies with all applicable provisions of chapter 420f and has received written approval from the department.

(i) A retailer may apply to the department to convert its license to a hybrid retailer license, without applying through the lottery application system. To convert a retailer license to a hybrid retailer license, a retailer shall submit a complete application to the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner. Prior to issuing a hybrid retailer license pursuant to this section, the department shall conduct an inspection of the converting retailer establishment. Upon a satisfactory inspection, the department shall deactivate the converting retailer license and issue a new hybrid retailer license to the applicant.

(j) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter and chapter 420f, and except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a hybrid retailer may sell the following palliative use cannabis products to consumers:

(A) Cannabis concentrates;

(B) Topical treatments, excluding transdermal patches;

(C) Creams;

(D) Tablets and capsules;

(E) Rosins; and

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(F) Products intended for sublingual absorption.

(2) Producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product packagers, product manufacturers and food and beverage manufacturers shall reserve the palliative use cannabis products set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection for sale exclusively to dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers for at least fourteen days after such palliative use cannabis products are released to the market, and a hybrid retailer shall reserve such palliative use cannabis products for sale exclusively to qualifying patients, qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers for at least fourteen days after the hybrid retailer receives each shipment of such palliative use cannabis products.

(3) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to allow sales of additional palliative use cannabis products to consumers in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

[(j)] (k) Manufacturer hemp products, as defined in section 22-61l, as amended by this act, may be sold within a hybrid retailer facility, provided such manufacturer hemp products are:

- (1) Stored separately from cannabis and cannabis products;
- (2) Separated, by a physical separation, from cannabis and cannabis products in any display area;
- (3) Displayed with signage approved by the department;
- (4) Tested by a laboratory that meets the standards for accreditation and testing, and sampling methods, set forth for an independent testing laboratory in section 22-61m, as amended by this act, which laboratory may be located outside of this state;
- (5) Clearly labeled to distinguish the product as (A) a manufacturer

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

hemp product, (B) subject to different testing standards than cannabis, and (C) not cannabis or a cannabis product;

(6) Sold in accordance with this chapter, chapter 424 and any regulations adopted pursuant to said chapters; and

(7) Derived from hemp grown by a United States Department of Agriculture hemp producer licensee under an approved state or tribal hemp production plan.

(l) No hybrid retailer shall retain any personal data the hybrid retailer obtains from a consumer, qualifying patient, qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver for the purposes of age verification for longer than twenty-four hours without the consumer's, qualifying patient's, qualifying out-of-state patient's, caregiver's or qualifying out-of-state caregiver's express written consent.

Sec. 69. Subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of section 21a-420t of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) A dispensary facility may apply to the department, on a form and in a manner prescribed by the commissioner, to convert its license to a hybrid retailer license [on or after September 1, 2021,] without applying through the lottery application system. The license conversion application shall require a dispensary facility to submit to, and obtain approval from the department for, a detailed medical preservation plan for how [it] the dispensary facility will prioritize sales and access to medical [marijuana] cannabis products for qualifying patients and qualifying out-of-state patients, including, but not limited to, managing customer traffic flow, preventing supply shortages, providing delivery services and ensuring appropriate staffing levels.

(b) [After October 1, 2021, qualifying] Qualifying patients and

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

qualifying out-of-state patients shall not be required to designate a dispensary facility or hybrid retailer as [its] their exclusive location to purchase cannabis or medical [marijuana] cannabis products, nor shall the department require any future change of designated dispensary facility applications. [If all dispensary facilities demonstrate to the department's satisfaction that they are adhering to the real-time upload requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section prior to October 1, 2021, the commissioner may eliminate the requirement for designated dispensary facilities prior to said date.]

(c) [On and after September 1, 2021, dispensary] Dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers shall [be required to] perform real-time uploads to the prescription drug monitoring program. Any cannabis or medical [marijuana] cannabis products sold to qualifying patients, [or] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers or qualifying out-of-state caregivers shall be dispensed by a licensed pharmacist and shall be recorded into the prescription drug monitoring program, established pursuant to section 21a-254, in real-time or immediately upon completion of the transaction, unless not reasonably feasible for a specific transaction, but in no case longer than one hour after completion of the transaction.

(d) A dispensary facility or hybrid retailer may apply to the department, in a form and in a manner prescribed by the commissioner, to provide delivery services through a delivery service or utilizing its own employees, subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of section 21a-420c, as amended by this act, to qualifying patients, caregivers, research program subjects, as defined in section 21a-408, as amended by this act, and hospice and other inpatient care facilities licensed by the Department of Public Health pursuant to chapter 368v that have a protocol for the handling and distribution of cannabis that has been approved by the Department of Consumer Protection. A dispensary facility or hybrid retailer may deliver cannabis or medical [marijuana]

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

cannabis products only from its own inventory to qualifying patients and caregivers. If such application is approved by the commissioner, the dispensary facility or hybrid retailer may commence delivery services. [on and after January 1, 2022, provided the commissioner may authorize dispensary facilities or hybrid retailers to commence delivery services prior to January 1, 2022, upon forty-five days advance written notice, published on the department's Internet web site.]

Sec. 70. Subsection (b) of section 21a-420u of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(b) Any equity joint venture created under this section shall be created for the development of a cannabis establishment, other than a cultivator, provided such equity joint venture is at least fifty per cent owned and controlled by an individual or individuals who meet, or the equity joint venture applicant is an individual who meets, the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(51)] (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act.

Sec. 71. Subsection (e) of section 21a-420u of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(e) [A] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (k) of section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, a dispensary facility, including the backers of such dispensary facility, shall not increase its ownership in an equity joint venture in excess of fifty per cent during the seven-year period after a license is issued by the department under this section.

Sec. 72. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 21a-420z of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(c) A delivery service may (1) deliver cannabis from a micro-

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

cultivator, retailer, or hybrid retailer directly to a consumer, and (2) deliver cannabis and medical [marijuana] cannabis products from a hybrid retailer or dispensary facility directly to a qualifying patient, caregiver, or hospice or other inpatient care facility licensed by the Department of Public Health pursuant to chapter 368v that has protocols for the handling and distribution of cannabis that have been approved by the Department of Consumer Protection. A delivery service may not store or maintain control of cannabis or medical [marijuana] cannabis products for more than twenty-four hours between the point when a consumer, qualifying patient, caregiver or facility places an order, until the time that the cannabis or medical [marijuana] cannabis product is delivered to such consumer, qualifying patient, caregiver or facility.

(d) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a transporter may deliver cannabis between cannabis establishments, research programs and cannabis testing laboratories and shall not store or maintain control of cannabis for more than twenty-four hours from the time the transporter obtains the cannabis from a cannabis establishment, research program or cannabis testing laboratory until the time such cannabis is delivered to the destination.

(2) (A) A transporter may expand the transporter's authorized activities to store, maintain and handle cannabis in accordance with the provisions of this subsection, provided such transporter:

(i) Possesses each unit of cannabis for a period not to exceed [thirty] one hundred eighty days beginning on the date on which the transporter receives such cannabis;

(ii) Complies with all security requirements established pursuant to section 21a-421i and the policies, procedures and regulations adopted pursuant to section 21a-421j, as amended by this act;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(iii) Attests that such transporter shall not open or remove any cannabis from individual child-resistant packaging, provided nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit a transporter from consolidating or separating bulk packaged cannabis for the purposes of commercial distribution;

(iv) Attests that such transporter shall comply with all requirements set forth in section 21a-421n, as amended by this act, and all policies, procedures and regulations adopted pursuant to section 21a-421j, as amended by this act, for the electronic tracking system concerning the receipt, storage, repackaging and distribution of cannabis;

(v) Pays to the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, a one-time expansion authorization payment of five thousand dollars, to be deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established in section 21a-8a;

(vi) Notifies the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, at least thirty days before the date on which the transporter intends to commence the storage of cannabis for a period exceeding twenty-four hours; and

(vii) Receives written confirmation from the department that the transporter meets the security requirements described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision.

(B) The department shall take all reasonable efforts to schedule an inspection of the cannabis establishment facility not later than sixty days after the department receives an application for transporter expansion pursuant to this subdivision. Upon completion of such inspection, the department shall promptly provide to the transporter (i) written confirmation of compliance with the security requirements set forth in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision, or (ii) notice of noncompliance with the security requirements set forth in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

subdivision.

(C) A transporter that expands the transporter's authorized activities under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall (i) comply with all provisions of this chapter, and all regulations, policies and procedures prescribed pursuant to this chapter, concerning product packagers, and (ii) not open or remove any cannabis from individual child-resistant packaging, provided nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit a transporter from consolidating or separating bulk packaged cannabis for the purposes of commercial distribution on a scale that is greater than commercial distribution on an individual and final packaging basis.

(D) In the event of a conflict between any provision of this chapter, or any regulation, policy or procedure prescribed pursuant to this chapter, concerning transporters and any such provision, regulation, policy or procedure concerning product packagers, the provision, regulation, policy or procedure imposing the more stringent public health and safety standard shall prevail.

Sec. 73. Subsection (e) of section 21a-420z of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(e) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of RERACA. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of RERACA and protect public health and safety, prior to adopting such regulations the commissioner shall issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of this section that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

consumer protection and the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either adoption of such policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or [sixty-three months from July 1, 2021] July 1, 2028. The commissioner shall issue policies and procedures, and thereafter adopt final regulations: [,] (1) For the purpose of ensuring the public health, safety and welfare, establishing storage, recall and other requirements for a transporter that expands its authorized activities as set forth in subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section; and (2) requiring that [:(1) The] (A) the delivery service and transporter meet certain security requirements related to the storage, handling and transport of cannabis, the vehicles employed, the conduct of employees and agents, and the documentation that shall be maintained by the delivery service, transporter and its drivers, [; (2)] (B) a delivery service that delivers cannabis to consumers maintain an online interface that verifies the age of consumers ordering cannabis for delivery and meets certain specifications and data security standards, [;] and [(3)] (C) a delivery service that delivers cannabis to consumers, qualifying patients or caregivers, and all employees and agents of such licensee, to verify the identity of the qualifying patient, caregiver or consumer and the age of the consumer upon delivery of cannabis to the end consumer, qualifying patient or caregiver, in a manner acceptable to the commissioner. The individual placing the cannabis order shall be the individual accepting delivery of the cannabis except, in the case of a qualifying patient, the individual accepting the delivery may be the caregiver of such qualifying patient.

Sec. 74. Subparagraph (A) of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 21a-420aa of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(A) Such change in ownership or control is allowed under (i) section 21a-420g, as amended by this act, or 21a-420h, as amended by this act, and (ii) any regulation adopted, or policy or procedure issued, pursuant to section 21a-420g, as amended by this act, or 21a-420h, as amended by this act; and

Sec. 75. Subsections (b) to (g), inclusive, of section 21a-420bb of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) During the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2027, the department shall issue a provisional micro-cultivator license to a social equity applicant pursuant to this section:

(1) If the social equity applicant meets the eligibility criteria established in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section;

(2) If during the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026, the social equity applicant submits to the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner:

(A) A completed micro-cultivator license application and other documentation required to determine eligibility as set forth in subsections (e) to (l), inclusive, of section 21a-420g;

(B) A written statement by the social equity applicant disclosing whether any change occurred in the ownership or control of the social equity applicant after the Social Equity Council verified that the applicant met the criteria for a social equity applicant pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-420o; and

(C) The application fee required under subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section; and

(3) If any change described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

this subsection has occurred:

(A) Such change in ownership or control is allowed under (i) section 21a-420g, as amended by this act, or 21a-420h, as amended by this act, and (ii) any regulation adopted, or policy or procedure issued, pursuant to section 21a-420g, as amended by this act, or 21a-420h, as amended by this act; and

(B) Pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, (i) the Social Equity Council has determined that the social equity applicant continues to meet the criteria for a social equity applicant, and (ii) the department has received a written notice from the Social Equity Council affirming that the Social Equity Council has determined that the social equity applicant continues to meet the criteria for a social equity applicant.

(c) (1) A social equity applicant that has not obtained a provisional cultivator license under subsection (a) of section 21a-420o and submits a micro-cultivator license application pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall submit to the department an application fee in the amount of five hundred thousand dollars. The three-million-dollar fee paid by the social equity applicant pursuant to section 21a-420o to receive a provisional cultivator license shall be considered the application fee to convert to a micro-cultivator license pursuant to this section. All application fees collected pursuant to this subdivision shall be deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established in section 21a-8a.

(2) The fee to renew a final micro-cultivator license issued pursuant to this section shall be the same as the fee to renew a final micro-cultivator license as set forth in section 21a-420e. All renewal fees collected pursuant to this subdivision shall be paid to the State Treasurer and credited to the General Fund.

(d) If any change described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

subsection (b) of this section has occurred, the Social Equity Council shall (1) determine whether the social equity applicant continues to meet the criteria for a social equity applicant, and (2) submit to the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, a written notice disclosing such determination.

(e) No social equity applicant that receives a micro-cultivator license under this section shall be eligible to apply for a provisional license and a final license to create more than one equity joint venture to be approved by the Social Equity Council under section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, and no such social equity applicant shall operate any such equity joint venture unless such social equity applicant has received a micro-cultivator license under this section, commenced cultivation activities under such micro-cultivator license and submitted to the department both the application fee required under subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section and a conversion fee in the amount of five hundred thousand dollars. The conversion fee collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited in the social equity and innovation account established in section 21a-420f. The three-million-dollar fee paid by the social equity applicant pursuant to section 21a-420o to receive a provisional cultivator license shall be considered the conversion fee to convert to a micro-cultivator license pursuant to this section. Cultivators that paid the three-million-dollar fee under section 21a-420o and received license conversion approval under section 21a-420aa, as amended by this act, may create not more than two equity joint ventures. No such cultivator shall apply for, or create, any additional equity joint venture if, on July 1, 2025, such cultivator has created at least two equity joint ventures that have each received a provisional license.

(f) Each application submitted to the department pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and all information included in, or submitted with, any application submitted pursuant to said subsection, shall be subject to the provisions of subsection (g) of section 21a-420e.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(g) [A] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (k) of section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, a micro-cultivator licensed under this section, including the backer of such micro-cultivator, shall not increase its ownership in an equity joint venture in excess of fifty per cent during the seven-year period beginning on the date on which a final micro-cultivator license is issued by the department under this section.

Sec. 76. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 21a-420cc of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) During the period beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2027, the department shall issue a cultivator license or micro-cultivator license to a social equity applicant, which permits such applicant to locate such applicant's cultivator or micro-cultivator facility outside of a disproportionately impacted area, provided:

(1) On or before July 1, 2026, the social equity applicant submits to the department a complete application for a provisional cultivator or micro-cultivator license pursuant to subsection (a) of section 21a-420o;

(2) On or before June 30, 2027, the Social Equity Council verifies, pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-420o, that such applicant meets the criteria established for a social equity applicant;

(3) On or before June 30, 2027, the department issues a provisional cultivator or micro-cultivator license to the social equity applicant pursuant to section 21a-420o; and

(4) On or before July 1, 2027, the provisional licensee submits to the department a complete application for a final cultivator or micro-cultivator license, as prescribed in section 21a-420g, as amended by this act, which application shall include:

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(A) A copy of a fully executed lease agreement between the provisional licensee and a hemp producer, which hemp producer has been continually licensed under section 22-61l, as amended by this act, since January 1, 2024, and which agreement provides:

(i) For the use of the hemp producer's lot, as defined in section 22-61l, as amended by this act, that is on record with the Department of Agriculture on January 1, 2024, and may be located outside of a disproportionately impacted area; and

(ii) That the hemp producer does not currently hold a position of ownership, control or management of the provisional licensee, and if a final cultivator or micro-cultivator license is issued to the provisional licensee pursuant to this section, the hemp producer shall not, except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (k) of section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, hold a position of ownership, control or management of the licensee for a period of seven years commencing on the date on which such final license is issued pursuant to this section; and

(iii) An express acknowledgment by the parties that if the department issues a final cultivator or micro-cultivator license to the provisional licensee pursuant to this section, the hemp producer shall immediately be deemed to have automatically surrendered such hemp producer's license;

(B) Evidence sufficient for the department to verify that the hemp producer that is a party to the lease has been continually licensed as a hemp producer since January 1, 2024;

(C) An acknowledgment by the provisional licensee that, if the department issues a final cultivator or micro-cultivator license to such provisional licensee pursuant to this section, such licensee shall (i) in the case of a final cultivator license, be eligible to create not more than one

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

equity joint venture after such licensee receives such license and commences cultivation activities under such license, or (ii) in the case of a final micro-cultivator license, be ineligible to create an equity joint venture after such licensee receives such license; and

(D) An attestation by the provisional licensee that (i) the hemp producer from which such provisional licensee is leasing land shall have no ownership interest in, or managerial control over, such licensee, other than any ownership interest or control previously disclosed to the Social Equity Council for the purpose of determining that the social equity applicant meets the criteria for a social equity applicant pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-420o, and (ii) all hemp has been harvested from the lot subject to the lease between the provisional licensee and the hemp producer.

(b) [During] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (k) of section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, during the seven-year period commencing on the date on which a final cultivator license or final micro-cultivator license is issued pursuant to this section, the cultivator or micro-cultivator issued such final license shall:

(1) Not enter into any business arrangement with the hemp producer, other than for the lease of the hemp producer's lot, or any affiliate, subsidiary or entity controlled by the hemp producer if such business arrangement may result in such hemp producer, affiliate, subsidiary or entity holding a position of ownership, control or management of the cultivator or micro-cultivator; and

(2) Disclose any direct or indirect business interest or relationship between the cultivator or micro-cultivator and the hemp producer or any affiliate, subsidiary or entity controlled by the hemp producer or any key participant, as defined in section 22-61l, as amended by this act.

Sec. 77. Subsection (f) of section 21a-421d of the general statutes is

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(f) A producer, cultivator or micro-cultivator may sell, transport or transfer cannabis to a product packager, food or beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer, dispensary facility or hybrid retailer for the sale of products to [qualified] qualifying patients, [or] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers or qualifying out-of-state caregivers, as applicable, which products shall be labeled "For Medical Use Only".

Sec. 78. Subsection (b) of section 21a-421j of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(b) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to implement the provisions of RERACA. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of RERACA and protect public health and safety, prior to adopting such regulations the commissioner shall issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of RERACA that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site and submit such policies and procedures to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection and the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. The commissioner shall also provide such policies and procedures, in a manner prescribed by the commissioner, to each licensee. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or [sixty-three months from June 22, 2021] July 1, 2028. The commissioner shall issue policies and procedures and thereafter final regulations that include, but are not limited to, the following:

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(1) Setting appropriate dosage, potency, concentration and serving size limits and delineation requirements for cannabis, provided a standardized serving of edible cannabis product or beverage, other than a medical marijuana product, shall contain not more than five milligrams of THC.

(2) Requiring that each single standardized serving of cannabis product in a multiple-serving edible product or beverage is physically demarked in a way that enables a reasonable person to determine how much of the product constitutes a single serving and a maximum amount of THC per multiple-serving edible cannabis product or beverage.

(3) Requiring that, if it is impracticable to clearly demark every standardized serving of cannabis product or to make each standardized serving easily separable in an edible cannabis product or beverage, the product, other than cannabis concentrate or medical marijuana product, shall contain not more than five milligrams of THC per unit of sale.

(4) Establishing, in consultation with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, consumer health materials that shall be posted or distributed, as specified by the commissioner, by cannabis establishments to maximize dissemination to cannabis consumers. Consumer health materials may include pamphlets, packaging inserts, signage, online and printed advertisements and advisories and printed health materials.

(5) Imposing labeling and packaging requirements for cannabis sold by a cannabis establishment that include, but are not limited to, the following:

(A) Inclusion of universal symbols to indicate that cannabis, or a cannabis product, contains THC and is not legal or safe for individuals younger than twenty-one years of age, and prescribe how such product

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

and product packaging shall utilize and exhibit such symbols.

(B) A disclosure concerning the length of time it typically takes for the cannabis to affect an individual, including that certain forms of cannabis take longer to have an effect.

(C) A notation of the amount of cannabis the cannabis product is considered the equivalent to.

(D) A list of ingredients and additives for cannabis.

(E) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (f) of section 21a-420p, as amended by this act, child-resistant, tamper-resistant and light-resistant packaging. For the purposes of this subparagraph, packaging shall be deemed to be (i) child-resistant if the packaging satisfies the standard for special packaging established in 16 CFR 1700.1(b)(4), as amended from time to time, (ii) tamper-resistant if the packaging has at least one barrier to, or indicator of, entry that would preclude the contents of such packaging from being accessed or adulterated without indicating to a reasonable person that such packaging has been breached, and (iii) light-resistant if the packaging is entirely and uniformly opaque and protects the entirety of the contents of such packaging from the effects of light.

(F) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (f) of section 21a-420p, as amended by this act, (i) packaging for cannabis intended for multiple servings to be resealable in such a manner so as to render such packaging continuously child-resistant, as described in subparagraph (E)(i) of this subdivision, and preserve the integrity of the contents of such packaging, and (ii) if packaging for cannabis intended for multiple servings contains any edible cannabis product, for each single standardized serving to be easily discernible and (I) individually wrapped, or (II) physically demarked and delineated as required under this subsection.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(G) Impervious packaging that protects the contents of such packaging from contamination and exposure to any toxic or harmful substance, including, but not limited to, any glue or other adhesive or substance that is incorporated in such packaging.

(H) Product tracking information sufficient to determine where and when the cannabis was grown and manufactured such that a product recall could be effectuated.

(I) A net weight statement.

(J) A recommended use by or expiration date.

(K) Standard and uniform packaging and labeling, including, but not limited to, requirements (i) regarding branding or logos, (ii) that all packaging be opaque, and (iii) that amounts and concentrations of THC and cannabidiol, per serving and per package, be clearly marked on the packaging or label of any cannabis product sold.

(L) For any cannabis concentrate cannabis product that contains a total THC percentage greater than thirty per cent, a warning that such cannabis product is a high-potency product and may increase the risk of psychosis.

(M) Chemotypes, which shall be displayed as (i) "High THC, Low CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is greater than five to one and the total THC percentage is at least fifteen per cent, (ii) "Moderate THC, Moderate CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is at least one to five but not greater than five to one and the total THC percentage is greater than five per cent but less than fifteen per cent, (iii) "Low THC, High CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is less than one to five and the total THC percentage is not greater than five per cent, or (iv) the chemotype described in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of this subparagraph that most closely fits the cannabis or cannabis product, as determined by mathematical analysis of the ratio of THC to CBD, where such cannabis or cannabis

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

product does not fit a chemotype described in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of this subparagraph.

(N) A requirement that, prior to being sold and transferred to a consumer, qualifying patient or caregiver, cannabis packaging be clearly labeled, whether printed directly on such packaging or affixed by way of a separate label, other than an extended content label, with:

(i) A unique identifier generated by a cannabis analytic tracking system maintained by the department and used to track cannabis under the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by the commissioner pursuant to this section; and

(ii) The following information concerning the cannabis contained in such packaging, which shall be in legible English, black lettering, Times New Roman font, flat regular typeface, on a contrasting background and in uniform size of not less than one-tenth of one inch, based on a capital letter "K", which information shall also be available on the Internet web site of the cannabis establishment that sells and transfers such cannabis:

(I) The name of such cannabis, as registered with the department under the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by the commissioner pursuant to this section.

(II) The expiration date, which shall not account for any refrigeration after such cannabis is sold and transferred to the consumer, qualifying patient or caregiver.

(III) The net weight or volume, expressed in metric and imperial units.

(IV) The standardized serving size, expressed in customary units, and the number of servings included in such packaging, if applicable.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(V) Directions for use and storage.

(VI) Each active ingredient comprising at least one per cent of such cannabis, including cannabinoids, isomers, esters, ethers and salts and salts of isomers, esters and ethers, and all quantities thereof expressed in metric units and as a percentage of volume.

(VII) A list of all known allergens, as identified by the federal Food and Drug Administration, contained in such cannabis, or the denotation "no known FDA identified allergens" if such cannabis does not contain any allergen identified by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

(VIII) The following warning statement within, and outlined by, a red box:

"This product is not FDA-approved, may be intoxicating, cause long-term physical and mental health problems, and have delayed side effects. It is illegal to operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of cannabis. Keep away from children."

(IX) At least one of the following warning statements, rotated quarterly on an alternating basis:

"Warning: Frequent and prolonged use of cannabis can contribute to mental health problems over time, including anxiety, depression, stunted brain development and impaired memory."

"Warning: Consumption while pregnant or breastfeeding may be harmful."

"Warning: Cannabis has intoxicating effects and may be habit-forming and addictive."

"Warning: Consuming more than the recommended amount may result in adverse effects requiring medical attention."

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(X) All information necessary to comply with labeling requirements imposed under the laws of this state and federal law, including, but not limited to, sections 21a-91 to 21a-120, inclusive, and 21a-151 to 21a-159, inclusive, the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 USC 301 et seq., as amended from time to time, and the federal Fair Packaging and Labeling Act, 15 USC 1451 et seq., as amended from time to time, for similar products that do not contain cannabis.

(XI) Such additional warning labels for certain cannabis products as the commissioner may require and post on the department's Internet web site.

(6) Establishing laboratory testing standards, consumer disclosures concerning mold and yeast in cannabis and permitted remediation practices.

(7) Restricting forms of cannabis products and cannabis product delivery systems to ensure consumer safety and deter public health concerns.

(8) Prohibiting certain manufacturing methods, or inclusion of additives to cannabis products, including, but not limited to, (A) added flavoring, terpenes or other additives unless approved by the department, or (B) any form of nicotine or other additive containing nicotine.

(9) Prohibiting cannabis product types that appeal to children, including, but not limited to, facsimiles of foods, beverages and other items that appeal to children.

(10) Establishing physical and cyber security requirements related to build out, monitoring and protocols for cannabis establishments as a requirement for licensure.

(11) Placing temporary limits on the sale of cannabis in the adult-use

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

market, if deemed appropriate and necessary by the commissioner, in response to a shortage of cannabis for qualifying patients.

(12) Requiring retailers and hybrid retailers to make best efforts to provide access to (A) low-dose THC products, including products that have one milligram and two and a half milligrams of THC per dose, and (B) high-dose CBD products.

(13) Requiring producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product manufacturers and food and beverage manufacturers to register brand names for cannabis, in accordance with the policies and procedures and subject to the fee set forth in, regulations adopted under chapter 420f.

(14) Prohibiting a cannabis establishment from selling, other than the sale of medical marijuana products between cannabis establishments and the sale of cannabis to qualifying patients and caregivers, (A) cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material with a total THC concentration greater than thirty-five per cent on a dry-weight basis, and (B) any cannabis product other than cannabis flower and cannabis plant material with a total THC concentration greater than seventy per cent on a dry-weight basis, except that the provisions of subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall not apply to the sale of prefilled cartridges for use in an electronic cannabis delivery system, as defined in section 19a-342a, as amended by this act, and the department may adjust the percentages set forth in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision in regulations adopted pursuant to this section for purposes of public health or to address market access or shortage. As used in this subdivision, "cannabis plant material" means material from the cannabis plant, as defined in section 21a-279a, as amended by this act.

(15) Requiring dispensary facilities, hybrid retailers and retailers to display the following types of cannabis in a form and manner prescribed by the department and in an area physically and visually separated from other cannabis for sale at such establishment: (A) Cannabis flower or

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

other cannabis plant material with a total THC concentration greater than thirty per cent on a dry-weight basis, and (B) any cannabis product other than cannabis flower and cannabis plant material with a total THC concentration greater than sixty per cent on a dry-weight basis, excluding prefilled cartridges for use in an electronic cannabis delivery system. As used in this subdivision, "cannabis plant material" has the same meaning as provided in subsection (j) of section 21a-279a, as amended by this act.

(16) Requiring any dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer that sells any form of cannabis that exceeds the THC concentrations set forth in subdivision (15) of this subsection to include the words "Warning - High THC" next to each such form of cannabis on such cannabis establishment's menus and advertisements.

(17) Prescribing signage to be displayed at a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer informing consumers, qualifying patients and caregivers of health risks associated with cannabis in excess of the THC concentrations set forth in subdivision (15) of this subsection.

(18) Permitting the outdoor cultivation of cannabis.

(19) Prohibiting packaging that is (A) visually similar to any commercially similar product that does not contain cannabis, or (B) used for any good that is marketed to individuals reasonably expected to be younger than twenty-one years of age.

(20) Allowing packaging to include a picture of the cannabis product and contain a logo of one cannabis establishment, which logo may be comprised of not more than three colors and provided neither black nor white shall be considered one of such three colors.

(21) Requiring packaging to (A) be entirely and uniformly one color, and (B) not incorporate any information, print, embossing, debossing, graphic or hidden feature, other than any permitted or required label.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(22) Requiring that packaging and labeling for an edible cannabis product, excluding the warning labels required under this subsection and a picture of the cannabis product described in subdivision (20) of this subsection but including, but not limited to, the logo of the cannabis establishment, shall only be comprised of black and white or a combination thereof.

(23) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, requiring that delivery device cartridges be labeled, in a clearly legible manner and in as large a font as the size of the device reasonably allows, with only the following information (i) the name of the cannabis establishment where the cannabis is grown or manufactured, (ii) the cannabis brand, (iii) the total THC and total CBD content contained within the delivery device cartridge, (iv) the expiration date, and (v) the unique identifier generated by a cannabis analytic tracking system maintained by the department and used to track cannabis under the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by the commissioner pursuant to this section.

(B) A cannabis establishment may emboss, deboss or similarly print the name of the cannabis establishment's business entity, and one logo with not more than three colors, on a delivery device cartridge.

(24) Prescribing signage to be prominently displayed at dispensary facilities, retailers and hybrid retailers disclosing (A) possible health risks related to mold, and (B) the use and possible health risks related to the use of mold remediation techniques.

Sec. 79. Section 21a-421j of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 78 of this act, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) As used in this section: [, "total THC"]

(1) "Other cannabis plant material" (A) means cannabis trim and all

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

parts of any plant or species of the genus cannabis, or any infra specific taxon thereof, excluding a growing plant, and the seeds thereof, and (B) does not include (i) cannabis flower or hemp, as defined in section 22-61l, as amended by this act, or (ii) an uprooted clone or uprooted cutting of the cannabis plant; and

(2) "Total THC" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act.

(b) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to implement the provisions of RERACA. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of RERACA and protect public health and safety, prior to adopting such regulations the commissioner shall issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of RERACA that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site and submit such policies and procedures to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection and the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. The commissioner shall also provide such policies and procedures, in a manner prescribed by the commissioner, to each licensee. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or July 1, 2028. The commissioner shall issue policies and procedures and thereafter final regulations that include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Setting appropriate dosage, potency, concentration and serving size limits and delineation requirements for cannabis, provided (A) a standardized serving of an edible cannabis product or beverage, other than a medical [marijuana] cannabis product, shall contain not more than five milligrams of THC, with an allowable variance for cannabis

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

testing laboratory method uncertainty of up to plus or minus ten per cent of the reported value for THC, and (B) there shall be no dosage, potency or concentration limit for (i) cannabis concentrates, or (ii) cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material.

(2) Requiring that each single standardized serving of cannabis product in a multiple-serving edible product or beverage is physically demarked in a way that enables a reasonable person to determine how much of the product constitutes a single serving and a maximum amount of THC per multiple-serving edible cannabis product or beverage.

(3) Requiring that, if it is impracticable to clearly demark every standardized serving of cannabis product or to make each standardized serving easily separable in an edible cannabis product or beverage, the product, other than cannabis concentrate, [or medical marijuana] cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material or a medical cannabis product, shall contain not more than five milligrams of THC per unit of sale, with an allowable variance for cannabis testing laboratory method uncertainty of up to plus or minus ten per cent of the reported value for THC.

(4) Establishing, in consultation with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, consumer health materials that shall be posted or distributed, as specified by the commissioner, by cannabis establishments to maximize dissemination to cannabis consumers. Consumer health materials may include pamphlets, packaging inserts, signage, online and printed advertisements and advisories and printed health materials.

(5) Imposing labeling and packaging requirements for cannabis sold by a cannabis establishment that include, but are not limited to, the following:

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(A) Inclusion of universal symbols to indicate that cannabis, or a cannabis product, contains THC and is not legal or safe for individuals younger than twenty-one years of age, and prescribe how such product and product packaging shall utilize and exhibit such symbols.

(B) A disclosure concerning the length of time it typically takes for the cannabis to affect an individual, including that certain forms of cannabis take longer to have an effect.

(C) A notation of the amount of cannabis the cannabis product is considered the equivalent to.

(D) A list of ingredients and additives for cannabis.

(E) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (f) of section 21a-420p, as amended by this act, child-resistant, tamper-resistant and light-resistant packaging. For the purposes of this subparagraph, packaging shall be deemed to be (i) child-resistant if the packaging satisfies the standard for special packaging established in 16 CFR 1700.1(b)(4), as amended from time to time, (ii) tamper-resistant if the packaging has at least one barrier to, or indicator of, entry that would preclude the contents of such packaging from being accessed or adulterated without indicating to a reasonable person that such packaging has been breached, and (iii) light-resistant if the packaging is entirely and uniformly opaque and protects the entirety of the contents of such packaging from the effects of light.

(F) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (f) of section 21a-420p, as amended by this act, (i) packaging for cannabis intended for multiple servings to be resealable in such a manner so as to render such packaging continuously child-resistant, as described in subparagraph (E)(i) of this subdivision, and preserve the integrity of the contents of such packaging, and (ii) if packaging for cannabis intended for multiple servings contains any edible cannabis product, for each

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

single standardized serving to be easily discernible and (I) individually wrapped, or (II) physically demarked and delineated as required under this subsection.

(G) Impervious packaging that protects the contents of such packaging from contamination and exposure to any toxic or harmful substance, including, but not limited to, any glue or other adhesive or substance that is incorporated in such packaging.

(H) Product tracking information sufficient to determine where and when the cannabis was grown and manufactured such that a product recall could be effectuated.

(I) A net weight statement.

(J) A recommended use by or expiration date.

(K) Standard and uniform packaging and labeling, including, but not limited to, requirements (i) regarding branding or logos, (ii) that all packaging be opaque, and (iii) that amounts and concentrations of THC and cannabidiol, per serving and per package, be clearly marked on the packaging or label of any cannabis product sold.

(L) For any cannabis flower, other cannabis plant material or cannabis concentrate cannabis product that contains a total THC percentage greater than thirty per cent, a warning that such cannabis flower, other cannabis plant material or cannabis concentrate cannabis product is a high-potency product and may increase the risk of psychosis.

(M) Chemotypes, which shall be displayed as (i) "High THC, Low CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is greater than five to one and the total THC percentage is at least fifteen per cent, (ii) "Moderate THC, Moderate CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is at least one to five but not greater than five to one and the total THC percentage is greater than five per cent but less than fifteen per cent, (iii) "Low THC, High CBD"

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

where the ratio of THC to CBD is less than one to five and the total THC percentage is not greater than five per cent, or (iv) the chemotype described in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of this subparagraph that most closely fits the cannabis or cannabis product, as determined by mathematical analysis of the ratio of THC to CBD, where such cannabis or cannabis product does not fit a chemotype described in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of this subparagraph.

(N) A requirement that, prior to being sold and transferred to a consumer, qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver, cannabis packaging be clearly labeled, whether printed directly on such packaging or affixed by way of a separate label, other than an extended content label, with:

(i) A unique identifier generated by a cannabis analytic tracking system maintained by the department and used to track cannabis under the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by the commissioner pursuant to this section; and

(ii) The following information concerning the cannabis contained in such packaging, which shall be in legible English, black lettering, Times New Roman font, flat regular typeface, on a contrasting background and in uniform size of not less than one-tenth of one inch, based on a capital letter "K", which information shall also be available on the Internet web site of the cannabis establishment that sells and transfers such cannabis:

(I) The name of such cannabis, as registered with the department under the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by the commissioner pursuant to this section.

(II) The expiration date, which shall not account for any refrigeration after such cannabis is sold and transferred to the consumer, qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

of-state caregiver.

(III) The net weight or volume, expressed in metric and imperial units.

(IV) The standardized serving size, expressed in customary units, and the number of servings included in such packaging, if applicable.

(V) Directions for use and storage.

(VI) Each active ingredient comprising at least one per cent of such cannabis, including cannabinoids, isomers, esters, ethers and salts and salts of isomers, esters and ethers, and all quantities thereof expressed in metric units and as a percentage of volume.

(VII) A list of all known allergens, as identified by the federal Food and Drug Administration, contained in such cannabis, or the denotation "no known FDA identified allergens" if such cannabis does not contain any allergen identified by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

(VIII) The following warning statement within, and outlined by, a red box:

"This product is not FDA-approved, may be intoxicating, cause long-term physical and mental health problems, and have delayed side effects. It is illegal to operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of cannabis. Keep away from children."

(IX) At least one of the following warning statements, rotated quarterly on an alternating basis:

"Warning: Frequent and prolonged use of cannabis can contribute to mental health problems over time, including anxiety, depression, stunted brain development and impaired memory."

"Warning: Consumption while pregnant or breastfeeding may be

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

harmful."

"Warning: Cannabis has intoxicating effects and may be habit-forming and addictive."

"Warning: Consuming more than the recommended amount may result in adverse effects requiring medical attention."

(X) All information necessary to comply with labeling requirements imposed under the laws of this state and federal law, including, but not limited to, sections 21a-91 to 21a-120, inclusive, and 21a-151 to 21a-159, inclusive, the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 USC 301 et seq., as amended from time to time, and the federal Fair Packaging and Labeling Act, 15 USC 1451 et seq., as amended from time to time, for similar products that do not contain cannabis.

(XI) Such additional warning labels for certain cannabis products as the commissioner may require and post on the department's Internet web site.

(6) Establishing laboratory testing standards. [,]

(7) Establishing consumer disclosures concerning mold and yeast in cannabis. [and]

(8) Establishing permitted remediation practices, which practices shall include, but need not be limited to, remediation of cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material by way of one or more exposures to ionizing radiation for any cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material that fails any laboratory testing due to microbial contamination.

[(7)] (9) Restricting forms of cannabis products and cannabis product delivery systems to ensure consumer safety and deter public health concerns.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

[(8)] (10) Prohibiting certain manufacturing methods, or inclusion of additives to cannabis products, including, but not limited to, (A) added flavoring, terpenes or other additives unless approved by the department, or (B) any form of nicotine or other additive containing nicotine.

[(9)] (11) Prohibiting cannabis product types that appeal to children, including, but not limited to, facsimiles of foods, beverages and other items that appeal to children.

[(10)] (12) Establishing physical and cyber security requirements related to build out, monitoring and protocols for cannabis establishments as a requirement for licensure.

[(11)] (13) Placing temporary limits on the sale of cannabis in the adult-use market, if deemed appropriate and necessary by the commissioner, in response to a shortage of cannabis for qualifying patients.

[(12)] (14) Requiring retailers and hybrid retailers to make best efforts to provide access to (A) low-dose THC products, including products that have one milligram and two and a half milligrams of THC per dose, and (B) high-dose CBD products.

[(13)] (15) Requiring producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product manufacturers and food and beverage manufacturers to register brand names for cannabis, in accordance with the policies and procedures and subject to the fee set forth in, regulations adopted under chapter 420f.

[(14)] (16) Prohibiting a cannabis establishment from selling, other than the sale of medical [marijuana] cannabis products between cannabis establishments and the sale of cannabis to qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers, [(A) cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

with a total THC concentration greater than thirty-five per cent on a dry-weight basis, and (B)] any cannabis product [other than cannabis flower and cannabis plant material] with a total THC concentration greater than seventy per cent on a dry-weight basis, except that the provisions of [subparagraph (B) of] this subdivision shall not apply to the sale of cannabis concentrates, cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material or prefilled cartridges for use in an electronic cannabis delivery system, as defined in section 19a-342a, as amended by this act. [and the department may adjust the percentages set forth in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision in regulations adopted pursuant to this section for purposes of public health or to address market access or shortage. As used in this subdivision, "cannabis plant material" means material from the cannabis plant, as defined in section 21a-279a.]

[(15)] (17) Requiring dispensary facilities, hybrid retailers and retailers to display the following types of cannabis in a form and manner prescribed by the department and in an area physically and visually separated from other cannabis for sale at such establishment: (A) Cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material with a total THC concentration greater than thirty per cent on a dry-weight basis, and (B) any cannabis product other than cannabis flower and cannabis plant material with a total THC concentration greater than sixty per cent on a dry-weight basis, excluding prefilled cartridges for use in an electronic cannabis delivery system. [As used in this subdivision, "cannabis plant material" has the same meaning as provided in subsection (j) of section 21a-279a.]

[(16)] (18) Requiring any dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer that sells any form of cannabis that exceeds the THC concentrations set forth in subdivision [(15)] (17) of this subsection to include the words "Warning - High THC" next to each such form of cannabis on such cannabis establishment's menus and advertisements.

[(17)] (19) Prescribing signage to be displayed at a dispensary facility,

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

hybrid retailer or retailer informing consumers, qualifying patients, ~~[and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers~~ of health risks associated with cannabis in excess of the THC concentrations set forth in subdivision ~~[(15)] (17)~~ of this subsection.

~~[(18)] (20)~~ Permitting the outdoor cultivation of cannabis.

~~[(19)] (21)~~ Prohibiting packaging that is (A) visually similar to any commercially similar product that does not contain cannabis, or (B) used for any good that is marketed to individuals reasonably expected to be younger than twenty-one years of age.

~~[(20)] (22)~~ Allowing packaging to include a picture of the cannabis product and contain a logo of one cannabis establishment, which logo may be comprised of not more than three colors and provided neither black nor white shall be considered one of such three colors.

~~[(21)] (23)~~ Requiring packaging to (A) be entirely and uniformly one color, and (B) not incorporate any information, print, embossing, debossing, graphic or hidden feature, other than any permitted or required label.

~~[(22)] (24)~~ Requiring that packaging and labeling for an edible cannabis product, excluding the warning labels required under this subsection and a picture of the cannabis product described in subdivision ~~[(20)] (22)~~ of this subsection but including, but not limited to, the logo of the cannabis establishment, shall only be comprised of black and white or a combination thereof.

~~[(23)] (25)~~ (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, requiring that delivery device cartridges be labeled, in a clearly legible manner and in as large a font as the size of the device reasonably allows, with only the following information (i) the name of the cannabis establishment where the cannabis is grown or manufactured, (ii) the cannabis brand, (iii) the total THC and total CBD

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

content contained within the delivery device cartridge, (iv) the expiration date, and (v) the unique identifier generated by a cannabis analytic tracking system maintained by the department and used to track cannabis under the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by the commissioner pursuant to this section.

(B) A cannabis establishment may emboss, deboss or similarly print the name of the cannabis establishment's business entity, and one logo with not more than three colors, on a delivery device cartridge.

[(24)] (26) Prescribing signage to be prominently displayed at dispensary facilities, retailers and hybrid retailers disclosing (A) possible health risks related to mold, and (B) the use and possible health risks related to the use of mold remediation techniques.

Sec. 80. Subsection (b) of section 21a-421k of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(b) Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of RERACA and protect public health and safety, prior to adopting such regulations the commissioner shall implement policies and procedures to implement the provisions of RERACA that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all such policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site and submit such policies and procedures to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection and the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policies and procedures shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either adoption of such policies and procedures as a final regulation under section 4-172 or [sixty-three months from June 22, 2021] July 1, 2028.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

Sec. 81. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 21a-421n of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) Each cannabis establishment, licensed pursuant to chapter 420f or the provisions of RERACA shall maintain a record of all cannabis grown, manufactured, wasted and distributed between cannabis establishments and to consumers, qualifying patients, and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner shall require each cannabis establishment to use an electronic tracking system to monitor the production, harvesting, storage, manufacturing, packaging and labeling, processing, transport, transfer and sale of cannabis from the point of cannabis cultivation inception through the point when the final product is sold to a consumer, qualifying patient, qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver, qualifying out-of-state caregiver, research program or otherwise disposed of in accordance with chapter 420f or the provisions of RERACA, and the policies and procedures or regulations issued pursuant to RERACA. Cannabis establishments shall be required to utilize such electronic tracking system and enter the data points required by the commissioner to ensure cannabis is safe, secure and properly labeled for consumer, or] qualifying patient or qualifying out-of-state patient use. The commissioner may contract with one or more vendors for the purpose of electronically collecting such cannabis information.

(b) The electronic tracking system shall not collect information about any individual consumer, qualifying patient, or] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver purchasing cannabis.

Sec. 82. Subsection (e) of section 21a-421o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(e) Except as otherwise provided in RERACA, all records maintained or kept on file related to RERACA by the department or the Social Equity Council shall be public records for purposes of the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200. In addition to the nondisclosure provisions contained in sections 1-210, 21a-408d, as amended by this act, 21a-408l, as amended by this act, 21a-408v, as amended by this act, 21a-420g, 21a-421n, as amended by this act, 21a-421p and 21a-422k, as amended by this act, any information related to (1) the physical security plans of a cannabis establishment or the criminal background of individual applicants that is obtained by the department through the licensing process, (2) the supply and distribution of cannabis by cannabis establishments, and (3) [qualified] qualifying patient, [and] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver and qualifying out-of-state caregiver information, shall be confidential and shall not be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200.

Sec. 83. Section 21a-421q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) Qualifying patients and caregivers registered pursuant to chapter 420f, and qualifying out-of-state patients and qualifying out-of-state caregivers, shall be permitted to purchase cannabis of higher potency, varied dosage form, and in a larger per transaction or per day amount than are generally available for retail purchase, as determined by the commissioner. Such determination, if any, shall be published on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site or included in regulations adopted by the department.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the sale or delivery of drug paraphernalia to a qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver or person licensed pursuant to the provisions of RERACA or chapter 420f, shall not be considered a violation of the provisions of RERACA.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

Sec. 84. Section 21a-421r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

A licensed pharmacist working as an employee at a dispensary facility or hybrid retailer shall transmit dispensing information, in a manner prescribed by the commissioner, on any cannabis sold to a qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver in real-time or immediately upon completion of the transaction, unless not reasonably feasible for a specific transaction, but in no case longer than one hour after completion of the transaction.

Sec. 85. Section 21a-421s of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) For the purposes of this section, ~~[(1) "Container" (A)]~~ "container" (1) means an object that is offered, intended for sale or sold to a consumer and directly contains an infused beverage, ~~[or legacy infused beverage,]~~ and ~~[(B)]~~ (2) does not include an object or packaging that indirectly contains, or contains in bulk for transportation purposes, an infused beverage. ~~[or legacy infused beverage; and~~

(2) "Legacy infused beverage" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-425.]

(b) A fee of one dollar shall be assessed by a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer on each infused beverage container ~~[and legacy infused beverage container]~~ sold by such cannabis establishment. Such fee shall not be subject to any sales tax or treated as income pursuant to any provision of the general statutes.

(c) On ~~[October 1, 2024, and every six months thereafter]~~ the first days of October and April, annually, each dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer shall remit payment to the department for each infused beverage container ~~[and legacy infused beverage container]~~ sold during

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

the preceding six-month period. The funds received by the department from infused beverage sales [and legacy infused beverage sales] shall be deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established in section 21a-8a for the purposes of (1) protecting public health and safety, (2) educating consumers and licensees, and (3) ensuring compliance with cannabis and liquor control laws.

Sec. 86. Subsection (c) of section 21a-421aa of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(c) A retailer or hybrid retailer shall not knowingly sell to a consumer more than one ounce of cannabis or the equivalent amount of cannabis products or combination of cannabis and cannabis products, as set forth in subsection (i) of section 21a-279a, per day, except that a hybrid retailer or dispensary facility may sell up to five ounces of cannabis or the equivalent amount of cannabis products or combination of cannabis and cannabis products to a qualifying patient or caregiver, or a qualifying out-of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state caregiver, per day. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, to avoid cannabis supply shortages or address a public health and safety concern, the commissioner may set temporary lower per-transaction limits, which shall be published on the department's Internet web site. Such limits shall become ineffective upon the commissioner's determination that a supply shortage or public health and safety concern no longer exists.

Sec. 87. Subsection (b) of section 21a-421bb of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, cannabis establishments shall not:

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(1) Advertise, including, but not limited to, through a business name or logo, cannabis, cannabis paraphernalia or goods or services related to cannabis:

(A) In ways that target or are designed to appeal to individuals under twenty-one years of age, including, but not limited to, spokespersons or celebrities who appeal to individuals under the legal age to purchase cannabis or cannabis products, depictions of a person under twenty-five years of age consuming cannabis, or, the inclusion of objects, such as toys, characters or cartoon characters, suggesting the presence of a person under twenty-one years of age, or any other depiction designed in any manner to be appealing to a person under twenty-one years of age; or

(B) By using any image, or any other visual representation, of the cannabis plant or any part of the cannabis plant, including, but not limited to, the leaf of the cannabis plant;

(2) Engage in any advertising by means of any form of billboard within one thousand five hundred feet of an elementary or secondary school ground or a house of worship, recreation center or facility, child care center, playground, public park or library, or engage in any advertising by means of a billboard between the hours of six o'clock a.m. and eleven o'clock p.m.;

(3) Engage in advertising by means of any television, radio, Internet, mobile application, social media or other electronic communication, billboard or other outdoor signage, or print publication unless the cannabis establishment has reliable evidence that at least ninety per cent of the audience for the advertisement is reasonably expected to be twenty-one years of age or older;

(4) Engage in advertising or marketing directed toward location-based devices, including, but not limited to, cellular phones, unless the

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

marketing is a mobile device application installed on the device by the owner of the device who is twenty-one years of age or older and includes a permanent and easy opt-out feature and warnings that the use of cannabis is restricted to persons twenty-one years of age or older;

(5) Advertise cannabis or cannabis products in a manner claiming or implying, or permit any employee of the cannabis establishment to claim or imply, that such products have curative or therapeutic effects, or that any other medical claim is true, or allow any employee to promote cannabis for a wellness purpose unless such claims are substantiated as set forth in regulations adopted under chapter 420f or verbally conveyed by a licensed pharmacist or other licensed medical practitioner in the course of business in, or while representing, a hybrid [retail] retailer or dispensary facility;

(6) Sponsor charitable, sports, musical, artistic, cultural, social or other similar events or advertising at, or in connection with, such an event unless the cannabis establishment has reliable evidence that (A) not more than ten per cent of the in-person audience at the event is reasonably expected to be under the legal age to purchase cannabis or cannabis products, and (B) not more than ten per cent of the audience that will watch, listen or participate in the event is expected to be under the legal age to purchase cannabis products;

(7) Advertise cannabis, cannabis products or cannabis paraphernalia in any physical form visible to the public within five hundred feet of an elementary or secondary school ground or a recreation center or facility, child care center, playground, public park or library;

(8) Cultivate cannabis or manufacture cannabis products for distribution outside of this state in violation of federal law, advertise in any way that encourages the transportation of cannabis across state lines or otherwise encourages illegal activity;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

[(9) Except for dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers, exhibit within or upon the outside of the facility used in the operation of a cannabis establishment, or include in any advertisement, the word "dispensary" or any variation of such term or any other words, displays or symbols indicating that such store, shop or place of business is a dispensary;]

[(10)] (9) Exhibit within or upon the outside of the premises subject to the cannabis establishment license, or include in any advertisement the words "drug store", "pharmacy", "apothecary", "drug", "drugs" or "medicine shop" or any combination of such terms or any other words, displays or symbols indicating that such store, shop or place of business is a pharmacy;

[(11)] (10) Advertise on or in public or private vehicles or at bus stops, taxi stands, transportation waiting areas, train stations, airports or other similar transportation venues including, but not limited to, vinyl-wrapped vehicles or signs or logos on transportation vehicles not owned by a cannabis establishment;

[(12)] (11) Display cannabis, cannabis products or any image, or any other visual representation, of the cannabis plant or any part of the cannabis plant, including, but not limited to, the leaf of the cannabis plant, so as to be clearly visible to a person from the exterior of the facility used in the operation of a cannabis establishment, or display signs or other printed material advertising any brand or any kind of cannabis or cannabis product, or including any image, or any other visual representation, of the cannabis plant or any part of the cannabis plant, including, but not limited to, the leaf of the cannabis plant, on the exterior of any facility used in the operation of a cannabis establishment;

[(13)] (12) Utilize radio or loudspeaker, in a vehicle or in or outside of a facility used in the operation of a cannabis establishment, for the purposes of advertising the sale of cannabis or cannabis products;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

[(14)] (13) Operate any Internet web site advertising or depicting cannabis, cannabis products or cannabis paraphernalia unless such Internet web site verifies that the entrants or users are twenty-one years of age or older; or

[(15)] (14) Engage in advertising or marketing that includes a discounted price or other promotional offering as an inducement to purchase any cannabis or cannabis product that is not a medical [marijuana] cannabis product, except a discounted price or promotional offering may be offered, as an inducement to purchase cannabis, (A) within a dispensary facility, retailer or hybrid retailer, (B) through a delivery service, or (C) on an Internet web site maintained by or for a dispensary facility, retailer or hybrid retailer where cannabis or cannabis products may be lawfully ordered.

Sec. 88. Section 21a-421ddd of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

Any person twenty-three years of age or older who sells, delivers or gives cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act, to any person under twenty-one years of age, and who knew or should have known that such person was under twenty-one years of age, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

Sec. 89. Subsection (a) of section 21a-422g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) Upon the petition of not less than ten per cent of the electors of any municipality, lodged with the town clerk at least sixty days before the date of any regular election, as defined in section 9-1, the selectmen of the municipality shall warn the electors of such municipality that, at such regular election, a vote shall be taken to determine: (1) Whether or not the recreational sale of [marijuana] cannabis shall be permitted in

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

such municipality, or (2) whether the sale of [marijuana] cannabis shall be permitted in such municipality in one or more of the classes of license of cannabis establishments. The ballot label designations in a vote upon the question of cannabis establishment license shall be "Shall the sale of recreational [marijuana] cannabis be allowed in (Name of municipality)?" or "Shall the sale of cannabis under (Specified license or Licenses) be allowed in (Name of municipality)?" or "Shall the sale of recreational [marijuana] cannabis be prohibited (No Licenses) in (Name of municipality)?" and shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of section 9-250. No elector shall vote for more than one designation. Such vote shall be taken in the manner prescribed in section 9-369 and shall become effective on the first Monday of the month next succeeding such election and shall remain in force until a new vote is taken; provided such vote may be taken at a special election called for the purpose in conformity with the provisions of section 9-164 and provided at least one year shall have elapsed since the previous vote was taken. The provisions of chapter 145 concerning absentee voting at referenda shall apply to all votes taken upon the question of cannabis establishment license. Any class of cannabis establishments already allowed in a municipality shall not be affected by any vote.

Sec. 90. Section 21a-422k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Material change" means: (A) The addition of a backer, (B) a change in the ownership interest of an existing backer, (C) the merger, consolidation or other affiliation of a cannabis establishment with another cannabis establishment, (D) the acquisition of all or part of a cannabis establishment by another cannabis establishment or backer, and (E) the transfer of assets or security interests from a cannabis establishment to another cannabis establishment or backer;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(2) "Cannabis establishment" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

(3) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act; and

(4) "Transfer" means to sell, transfer, lease, exchange, option, convey, give or otherwise dispose of or transfer control over, including, but not limited to, transfer by way of merger or joint venture not in the ordinary course of business.

(b) No person shall, directly or indirectly, enter into a transaction that results in a material change to a cannabis establishment, unless all parties involved in the transaction file a written notification with the Attorney General pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and the waiting period described in subsection (d) of this section has expired.

(c) The written notice required under subsection (b) of this section shall be in such form and contain such documentary material and information relevant to the proposed transaction as the Attorney General deems necessary and appropriate to enable the Attorney General to determine whether such transaction, if consummated, would violate antitrust laws.

(d) The waiting period required under subsection (b) of this section shall begin on the date of the receipt by the Attorney General's office of the completed notification required under subsection (c) of this section from all parties to the transaction and shall end on the thirtieth day after the date of such receipt, unless such time is extended pursuant to subsection (f) of this section.

(e) The Attorney General may, in individual cases, terminate the waiting period specified in subsection (d) of this section and allow any person to proceed with any transaction.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(f) The Attorney General may, prior to the expiration of the thirty-day waiting period, require the submission of additional information or documentary material relevant to the proposed transaction from a person required to file notification with respect to such transaction under subsection (b) of this section. Upon request for additional information under this subsection, the waiting period shall be extended until thirty days after the parties have substantially complied, as determined solely by the Attorney General, with such request for additional information.

(g) Any information or documentary material filed with the Attorney General pursuant to this section shall not be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200, and no such information or documentary material may be made public, except as may be relevant to any administrative or judicial action or proceeding. Such information or documentary material shall be returned to the person furnishing such information or documentary material upon the termination of the Attorney General's review or final determination of any action or proceeding commenced thereunder.

(h) (1) Any person, or any officer, director or partner thereof, who fails to comply with any provision of this section shall be liable to the state for a civil penalty of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars for each day during which such person is in violation of this section. Such penalty may be recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney General.

(2) If any person, or any officer, director, partner, agent or employee thereof, fails substantially to comply with the notification requirement under subsection (b) of this section or any request for the submission of additional information or documentary material under subsection (f) of this section within the waiting period specified in subsection (d) of this section and as may be extended under subsection (f) of this section, the court:

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(A) May order compliance;

(B) Shall extend the waiting period specified in subsection (d) of this section and as may have been extended under subsection (f) of this section until there has been substantial compliance, except that, in the case of a tender offer, the court may not extend such waiting period on the basis of a failure, by the person whose stock is sought to be acquired, to comply substantially with such notification requirement or any such request; and

(C) May grant such other equitable relief as the court in its discretion determines necessary or appropriate, upon application of the Attorney General.

(i) (1) Not later than thirty days after the effective date of any transaction described in subsection (b) of this section that involves a cannabis establishment license awarded to a social equity applicant, all parties involved in such transaction shall submit to the Social Equity Council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, a written notice disclosing (A) the effective date of such transaction, (B) the identity of each party to such transaction, (C) the nature of each cannabis establishment involved in such transaction, broken down by license type, and (D) the nature, and a detailed description of, each material change made to a cannabis establishment involved in such transaction.

(2) The Social Equity Council shall post a copy of each written notice the council receives under subdivision (1) of this subsection on the council's Internet web site.

Sec. 91. Subsection (a) of section 21a-422*l* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) As used in this section, "cannabis" has the same meaning as provided in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act, and

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

"electronic cannabis delivery system" and "vapor product" have the same meanings as provided in section 19a-342a, as amended by this act. No hotel, motel or similar lodging shall prohibit the legal possession or consumption of cannabis in any nonpublic area of such hotel, motel or similar lodging.

Sec. 92. Section 21a-422m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

As used in this section, "hospital" has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-490 and "cannabis" has the same meaning as provided in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act. No hospital shall be required to allow a patient to use cannabis while at such hospital. A hospital may have a policy that sets forth restrictions patients shall follow regarding cannabis use.

Sec. 93. Section 21a-425 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

For the purposes of this section, sections 21a-425a, as amended by this act, 21a-425b, as amended by this act, 21a-425e, as amended by this act, and 21a-425f, as amended by this act:

(1) "Alcoholic beverage" has the same meaning as provided in section 30-1, as amended by this act;

(2) "Cannabis" [means marijuana, as defined] has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act;

(3) "Cannabis establishment" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

(4) "Cannabis product" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(5) "Cannabis testing laboratory" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

(6) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer Protection;

(7) "Consumer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

(8) "Container" (A) means an object that is offered, intended for sale or sold to a consumer and directly contains an infused beverage or high-THC beverage, and (B) does not include an object or packaging that indirectly contains, or contains in bulk for transportation purposes, an infused beverage or high-THC beverage;

(9) "Cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

(10) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection;

(11) "Dispensary facility" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

(12) "Food and beverage manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

(13) "Hemp" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-611, as amended by this act;

(14) "Hemp producer" means producer, as defined in section 22-611, as amended by this act;

(15) "Hemp products" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-611, as amended by this act;

(16) "High-THC beverage" means a beverage that (A) is not an

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

alcoholic beverage, (B) is intended for human consumption, (C) contains, or is advertised, labeled or offered for sale as containing, total THC per container that is greater than [three milligrams] the maximum total THC per container allowable for an infused beverage, and (D) contains THC solely derived from hemp (i) grown by a United States Department of Agriculture hemp producer licensee under an approved state or tribal hemp production plan, and (ii) with a total THC concentration of not more than three-tenths per cent on a dry-weight basis or by volume, as applicable;

(17) "Hybrid retailer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

(18) "Infused beverage" means a beverage that (A) is not an alcoholic beverage, (B) is intended for human consumption, and (C) contains, or is advertised, labeled or offered for sale as containing, total THC that is not greater than [three] (i) five milligrams per container, with an allowable variance for cannabis testing laboratory method uncertainty of up to plus or minus ten per cent of the reported value for THC, if the beverage is sold or offered for sale (I) on premises operating under a package store permit issued under subsection (b) of section 30-20, as amended by this act, or (II) on the premises of an infused beverage manufacturer under subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of section 21a-425a, as amended by this act, or (ii) ten milligrams per container, with an allowable variance for cannabis testing laboratory method uncertainty of up to plus or minus ten per cent of the reported value for THC, if the beverage is sold or offered for sale at a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer;

(19) "Infused beverage manufacturer" means a person licensed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to section 21a-425a, as amended by this act;

(20) "Infused beverage wholesaler" (A) means a person that has been

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

issued an infused beverage wholesaler license under section 21a-425e, as amended by this act, and (B) does not include the holder of a wholesaler permit or a wholesaler permit for beer issued under section 30-17;

[(21) "Legacy infused beverage" means a beverage that (A) is not an alcoholic beverage, (B) is intended for human consumption, (C) contains, or is advertised, labeled or offered for sale as containing, THC, and (D) as of June 30, 2024, is in compliance with (i) the provisions of RERACA, and (ii) the policies and procedures issued by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to implement, and any regulations adopted pursuant to, RERACA;]

[(22)] (21) "Micro-cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

[(23)] (22) "Manufacturer hemp product" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-61l, as amended by this act;

[(24)] (23) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

[(25)] (24) "Producer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

[(26)] (25) "Product manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

[(27)] (26) "RERACA" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

[(28)] (27) "Retailer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

[(29)] (28) "THC" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act; and

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

[(30)] (29) "Total THC" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act.

Sec. 94. Section 21a-425a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 22-61m, as amended by this act, and 22-61n, as amended by this act, and except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, no person shall [, on or after October 1, 2024,] manufacture any infused beverage that is intended to be sold or offered for sale in this state unless such person has received an infused beverage manufacturer license issued by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to this section.

(b) A person seeking an infused beverage manufacturer license under this section shall submit to the Department of Consumer Protection, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, an application accompanied by an application fee in the amount of five thousand dollars. Each license issued pursuant to this section shall be valid for a period of one year, and shall be renewable for additional one-year periods upon submission of a renewal application in the manner, and payment of a renewal fee in the amount, set forth for an initial application under this subsection. All fees collected under this subsection shall be deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established in section 21a-8a.

(c) (1) A cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer or product manufacturer, or a producer that has received expanded authorization to engage in the adult use cannabis market under the producer's license issued pursuant to section 21a-408i, as amended by this act, may [, beginning on October 1, 2024,] manufacture infused beverages in this state that are intended to be sold or offered for sale in this state if such cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

manufacturer, product manufacturer or producer submits to the Department of Consumer Protection, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, a written request to manufacture such infused beverages, and the commissioner approves such written request.

(2) A cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer or producer that receives approval from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be subject to all provisions of this section, and all regulations, policies and procedures adopted or issued pursuant to subsection [(k)] (l) of this section, applicable to infused beverage manufacturers, except no such cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer or producer shall be subject to the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

(d) (1) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, no] An infused beverage manufacturer shall only obtain [any] hemp, [product] a hemp product or an intermediate hemp derivative for the purpose of manufacturing any infused beverage that is intended to be sold or offered for sale in this state unless such hemp product is in the form of hemp oil or an intermediate hemp derivative, and no such infused beverage manufacturer shall use any hemp product other than hemp oil or an intermediate hemp derivative to manufacture any such infused beverage.

(2) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize the interstate transportation of any product in violation of federal law, including, but not limited to, the United States Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, 7 USC 1639o et seq., as amended from time to time, and no intermediate hemp derivative shall be further distributed for resale.

[(2) Beginning on October 1, 2024, no] (3) No infused beverage manufacturer shall obtain any hemp [oil] for the purpose of

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

manufacturing any infused beverage that is intended to be sold or offered for sale in this state unless such hemp: [oil:

(A) Is derived from hemp;

(B)] (A) (i) Was extracted from hemp grown by (I) a hemp producer, as evidenced by a certificate of authenticity issued by the hemp producer, or (II) a licensed hemp grower regulated by a state, territory or federally recognized Indian tribe, and in accordance with a state or tribal plan approved by the United States Department of Agriculture, as evidenced by a certificate of authenticity issued by such licensed hemp grower, or (ii) was extracted (I) by a person who is actively credentialed by a state or federally recognized Indian tribe to extract hemp, and (II) in a facility that is credentialed by a state or federally recognized Indian tribe; and

[(C)] (B) Was extracted from hemp by using (i) a Class 3 residual solvent within the meaning of the most recent United States Pharmacopeia, Chapter 467, as amended from time to time, (ii) a solvent generally recognized as safe pursuant to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, or (iii) a solvent approved by the Department of Consumer Protection and posted on the department's Internet web site.

[(3) Beginning on October 1, 2024, each] (4) Each infused beverage manufacturer that manufactures any infused beverage that is intended to be sold or offered for sale in this state shall:

(A) Not manufacture any such infused beverage with total THC that exceeds [three] (i) five milligrams per container, with an allowable variance for cannabis testing laboratory method uncertainty of up to plus or minus ten per cent of the reported value for THC, if the beverage is to be sold or offered for sale (I) on premises operating under a package store permit issued under subsection (b) of section 30-20, as amended by this act, or (II) on the premises of such infused beverage

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

manufacturer under subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of this section, or (ii) ten milligrams per container, with an allowable variance for cannabis testing laboratory method uncertainty of up to plus or minus ten per cent of the reported value for THC, if the beverage is to be sold or offered for sale at a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer;

(B) Manufacture such infused beverage by using equipment that is exclusively used to manufacture an infused beverage or prepared in accordance with good manufacturing practices as set forth in 21 CFR Parts 110 and 111, as amended from time to time, as applicable; and

(C) Ensure that all hemp oil and intermediate hemp derivative such infused beverage manufacturer possesses to manufacture such infused beverage is (i) stored in a secure, locked location separate from any cannabis, (ii) clearly and conspicuously labeled as hemp oil or intermediate hemp derivative solely for use in manufacturing an infused beverage, and (iii) solely used for the purpose of manufacturing an infused beverage.

(e) (1) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, no] No infused beverage that is sold or offered for sale in this state shall include (A) any additive that (i) is psychotropic, or (ii) could increase the potency, toxicity or addictive properties of the infused beverage, including, but not limited to, caffeine other than caffeine naturally occurring in chocolate, coffee or tea, or (B) total THC that exceeds [three] (i) five milligrams per container, with an allowable variance for cannabis testing laboratory method uncertainty of up to plus or minus ten per cent of the reported value for THC, if the beverage is sold or offered for sale (I) on premises operating under a package store permit issued under subsection (b) of section 30-20, as amended by this act, or (II) on the premises of such infused beverage manufacturer under subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of this section, or (ii) ten milligrams per container, with an allowable variance for cannabis testing laboratory method uncertainty of up to plus or minus ten per cent of the reported value for THC, if the beverage is sold or offered for

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

sale at a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer.

(2) (A) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, each] Each lot of an infused beverage in final form shall be tested by a cannabis testing laboratory or a similarly qualified laboratory that is located in, and licensed by, another state. A statistically significant number of samples shall be collected from such lot and submitted to the cannabis testing laboratory or out-of-state laboratory for final product testing in a manner approved by the Department of Consumer Protection. Such sampling and final product testing shall be conducted by using a representative sample of such lot and by collecting a minimum number of sample increments relative to the size of such lot.

(B) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, no] No infused beverage shall be sold or offered for sale in this state unless the infused beverage meets (i) the laboratory testing standards for cannabis established in, and any regulations, policies and procedures adopted or issued pursuant to, section 21a-421j, as amended by this act, or (ii) such other testing standards as may be approved by the Department of Consumer Protection and posted on the department's Internet web site.

(3) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, no] No infused beverage sold or offered for sale in this state shall be packaged, labeled or advertised in any manner that is likely to mislead an individual by incorporating any statement, brand, design, representation, picture, illustration or other depiction that:

(A) Bears a reasonable resemblance to trademarked or characteristic packaging of (i) cannabis offered for sale (I) in this state by a cannabis establishment licensed in this state, or (II) on tribal land by a tribal-credentialed cannabis entity, or (ii) a commercially available product other than a cannabis product; or

(B) Appeals to individuals who are younger than twenty-one years of

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

age by, among other things, (i) making use of any spokesperson or celebrity who appeals to such individuals, (ii) depicting any individual who is younger than twenty-five years of age consuming cannabis or an infused beverage, (iii) including any object, such as a toy, character or cartoon character, which suggests the presence of any individual who is younger than twenty-one years of age, or (iv) making use of any other method that is designed to appeal to any individual who is younger than twenty-one years of age.

(4) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, each] Each infused beverage container sold or offered for sale in this state shall prominently display (A) a symbol, in a size of not less than one-half inch by one-half inch and in a format approved by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, that indicates that such infused beverage is not legal or safe for individuals younger than twenty-one years of age, and (B) a symbol that satisfies ASTM International standard D8441.

(f) (1) No infused beverage manufacturer shall sell an infused beverage to any person in this state other than (A) a dispensary facility, (B) a hybrid retailer, (C) a retailer, (D) the holder of a wholesaler permit or a wholesaler permit for beer issued under section 30-17, [or] (E) an infused beverage wholesaler, or (F) a consumer for off-premises consumption under subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of this section.

(2) A dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer, before selling an infused beverage to a consumer in this state, a wholesaler permittee under section 30-17, before selling an infused beverage to a package store permittee under subsection (b) of section 30-20, as amended by this act, or an infused beverage wholesaler, before selling an infused beverage to a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer or a package store permittee under subsection (b) of section 30-20, as amended by this act, shall, based on a representative sample of the infused beverage containers included in the shipment that includes such infused beverage, (A) verify that the infused beverages included in such

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

shipment satisfy the requirements established in subdivision (3) of subsection (e) of this section and any regulations adopted, and policies and procedures issued, pursuant to subsection [(k)] (l) of this section, and (B) for the purpose of preserving public health and safety, verify that the infused beverages included in such shipment were manufactured in accordance with requirements that are substantially similar to the requirements established in subsections (d) and (e) of this section and any regulations adopted, and policies and procedures issued, pursuant to subsection [(k)] (l) of this section if such infused beverages were manufactured (i) in a facility located in, and regulated by, another state, and (ii) by a person who is regulated as a food or nonalcoholic beverage manufacturer.

(g) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, no] No cannabis establishment or infused beverage manufacturer, or agent or employee of a cannabis establishment or infused beverage manufacturer, shall gift or transfer any infused beverage to a consumer, at no cost to the consumer, as part of a commercial transaction.

(h) (1) An infused beverage manufacturer may engage in the retail sale of beverages to be consumed on the premises operating under the license issued to the infused beverage manufacturer pursuant to this section, provided (A) such beverages are manufactured on such premises in accordance with applicable law, (B) such sales are made, and beverages are consumed, (i) in a room or area that is physically separated from the room or area in which the infused beverage manufacturer manufactures infused beverages, and (ii) in accordance with applicable law, and (C) no such beverage is an infused beverage, an alcoholic beverage or contains THC.

(2) (A) An infused beverage manufacturer may engage in the retail sale of infused beverages to be consumed off the premises operating under the license issued to the infused beverage manufacturer pursuant to this section, provided (i) such infused beverages are (I) manufactured

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

on such premises in accordance with the provisions of this section, and (II) sold in accordance with the provisions of this section and section 21a-425b, as amended by this act, (ii) such sales are made in a room or area that is physically separated from the room or area in which the infused beverage manufacturer manufactures infused beverages, and (iii) such infused beverage manufacturer does not sell more than twelve containers per day to a consumer.

(B) Each infused beverage manufacturer that engages in retail sales under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall assess a fee of one dollar on each infused beverage container sold at retail. Such fee shall not be subject to any sales tax or treated as income pursuant to any provision of the general statutes. Beginning on April 1, 2027, and every six months thereafter, each infused beverage manufacturer shall remit payment to the Department of Consumer Protection for each infused beverage container sold during the preceding six-month period. The funds received by the department from infused beverage sales shall be deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established in section 21a-8a for the purposes of (i) protecting public health and safety, (ii) educating consumers and licensees, and (iii) ensuring compliance with cannabis and liquor control laws.

[(h) Beginning on October 1, 2024, the] (i) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may request that an infused beverage manufacturer submit to the Department of Consumer Protection, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, documentation sufficient to demonstrate that the infused beverage manufacturer is in compliance with the provisions of this section. The infused beverage manufacturer shall promptly provide such documentation to the department.

[(i) Beginning on October 1, 2024, each] (j) Each infused beverage manufacturer shall be subject to the investigation and enforcement provisions set forth in section 21a-421p.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

[(j) Beginning on October 1, 2024, if] (k) If the Commissioner of Consumer Protection determines, after consulting with the Attorney General, that the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, P.L. 115-334, as amended from time to time, has been amended in a manner that conflicts with any provision of this section, the commissioner shall prepare and submit a report, in coordination with the Attorney General and in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection. Such report shall, at a minimum, set forth the scope of such conflict and recommendations to resolve such conflict. The commissioner shall submit such report: (1) Not later than thirty days after the United States Department of Agriculture announces such amendment, if the General Assembly is in session; or (2) not later than sixty days after the United States Department of Agriculture announces such amendment, if the General Assembly is not in session.

[(k)] (l) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, the commissioner shall, prior to adopting such regulations and in order to effectuate the provisions of this section, issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of this section that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies and procedures on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or forty-eight months from July 1, 2024, if such regulations have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

section 4-170.

[(l) Beginning on October 1, 2024, and following] (m) Following a hearing conducted in accordance with chapter 54, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection may impose an administrative civil penalty, not to exceed five thousand dollars per violation, and suspend, revoke or place conditions upon any infused beverage manufacturer that violates any provision of this section or any regulation adopted pursuant to subsection [(k)] (l) of this section. All administrative civil penalties collected under this subsection shall be deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established in section 21a-8a.

[(m) Beginning on October 1, 2024, the] (n) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may, pursuant to section 4-182, summarily suspend any credential the commissioner or Department of Consumer Protection has issued to any person who violates any provision of this section.

[(n)] (o) Any violation of the provisions of this section shall be deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b.

Sec. 95. Section 21a-425b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) (1) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, no] No infused beverage shall be sold, offered for sale or distributed in this state unless:

(A) The infused beverage is sold or offered for sale (i) on premises operating under a package store permit issued pursuant to subsection (b) of section 30-20, as amended by this act, [or] (ii) at a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer, or (iii) on the premises of an infused beverage manufacturer under subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of section 21a-425a, as amended by this act;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(B) If the infused beverage is sold at a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer, the infused beverage is stored and displayed separately from any cannabis, in the same manner provided for manufacturer hemp products, in accordance with section 21a-409, as amended by this act, 21a-420s or 21a-420r, as amended by this act, respectively; and

(C) The infused beverage meets the standards set forth for manufacturer hemp products in subsections (v) and (x) of section 22-61m.

(2) [Beginning on July 1, 2024, no] No infused beverage shall be sold, or offered for sale, at retail to any individual in this state by way of any indirect means, including, but not limited to, by way of mail or any telephonic or other electronic means.

(b) No infused beverage shall be sold to any individual who is younger than twenty-one years of age. No owner, agent or employee of a package store permitted under subsection (b) of section 30-20, as amended by this act, [or] of a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer [.] or of an infused beverage manufacturer shall sell any infused beverage to an individual without first verifying the individual's age with a valid government-issued driver's license or identity card to establish that such individual is twenty-one years of age or older.

(c) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, no] No person shall sell, or offer for sale, any infused beverage in any container containing less than twelve fluid ounces, or any packaging comprised of more than [four] twelve containers.

[(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of this section, a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer, retailer or package store that has received a waiver from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection under section 21a-425d may, during the period

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

beginning on July 1, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, sell legacy infused beverages in accordance with such waiver and the requirements set forth in section 21a-425d.]

[(e)] (d) Any violation of the provisions of subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of this section shall be deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b.

Sec. 96. Subsection (f) of section 21a-425e of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(f) Each infused beverage wholesaler shall assess a fee of one dollar on each infused beverage container sold to the holder of a package store permit issued under subsection (b) of section 30-20, as amended by this act, or to a retailer, hybrid retailer or dispensary facility. Such fee shall not be subject to any sales tax or treated as income pursuant to any provision of the general statutes. [Beginning on October 1, 2025, and every six months thereafter] On the first days of October and April, annually, each infused beverage wholesaler shall remit payment to the Department of Consumer Protection for each infused beverage container sold during the preceding six-month period. The funds received by the department from infused beverage sales shall be deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established in section 21a-8a for the purposes of (1) protecting public health and safety, (2) educating consumers and licensees, and (3) ensuring compliance with cannabis and liquor control laws.

Sec. 97. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 21a-425f of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) [On and after January 1, 2026, no] No person shall manufacture a high-THC beverage in this state unless such person is an infused

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

beverage manufacturer that has received a high-THC beverage endorsement issued by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to this section. A high-THC beverage endorsement shall authorize the infused beverage manufacturer to manufacture high-THC beverages for sale exclusively outside of this state. No infused beverage manufacturer shall advertise, offer or sell any high-THC beverage in this state or offer or sell any high-THC beverage directly to any individual. An infused beverage manufacturer shall verify that purchasers of high-THC beverages intend to engage in the commercial resale of such beverages exclusively outside of this state.

(b) [Beginning on January 1, 2026, an] An infused beverage manufacturer seeking a high-THC beverage endorsement under this section shall submit an application to the Department of Consumer Protection in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

Sec. 98. Subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 21a-426 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(7) "Moderate-THC hemp product" (A) means a manufacturer hemp product that has a total THC, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended by this act, concentration of not less than one-half of one milligram, and not more than five milligrams, on a per-container basis, and (B) does not include [(i)] an infused beverage, as defined in section 21a-425, as amended by this act; [, or (ii) a legacy infused beverage, as defined in section 21a-425;] and

Sec. 99. Section 22-61l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) For the purpose of this section and section 22-61m, as amended by this act, the following terms have the same meaning as provided in 7

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

CFR 990.1, as amended from time to time: "Acceptable hemp THC level", "Agricultural marketing service", "Audit", "Cannabis", "Conviction", "Corrective action plan", "Culpable mental state greater than negligence", "Decarboxylated", "Decarboxylation", "Disposal", "Dry weight basis", "Gas chromatography", "Geospatial location", "Handle", "Liquid chromatography", "Immature plants", "Information sharing system", "Measurement of uncertainty", "Negligence", "Phytocannabinoid", "Postdecarboxylation", "Remediation", "Reverse distributor" and "Total THC". In addition, for the purpose of this section, [and] section 22-61m, as amended by this act, and sections 100 and 101 of this act:

(1) "Cannabidiol" or "CBD" means the nonpsychotropic compound by the same name;

(2) "Cannabis" (A) means all parts of any plant or species of the genus cannabis, or any infra specific taxon thereof, whether growing or not; (B) includes (i) every resin extracted from any part of such plant, including, but not limited to, every resin extracted from (I) the mature stalks of such plant, (II) the fiber produced from the mature stalks of such plant, or (III) the oil or cake made from the seeds of such plant, (ii) every other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of such plant or its resin, and (iii) every (I) high-THC hemp product, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended by this act, (II) manufactured cannabinoid, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended by this act, or (III) cannabinol or cannabidiol and chemical compounds which are similar to cannabinol or cannabidiol in chemical structure or which are similar thereto in physiological effect, which are controlled substances under this chapter, except cannabidiol derived from hemp, that is not a high-THC hemp product; and (C) does not include (i) the mature stalks of such plant, (ii) the fiber produced from the mature stalks of such plant, (iii) the oil or cake made from the seeds of such plant, (iv) any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

or preparation of the mature stalks of such plant, (v) the seeds of such plant, (vi) hemp (I) with a total THC, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended by this act, concentration of not more than three-tenths per cent on a dry-weight basis, and (II) that is not a high-THC hemp product, (vii) cannabitol, cannabigerol, cannabichromene or any other minor cannabinoid derived from hemp, (viii) any substance approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration or successor agency as a drug and reclassified in any schedule of controlled substances or unscheduled by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or successor agency that is included in the same schedule designated by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or successor agency, or (ix) any infused beverage, as defined in section 21a-425, as amended by this act;

[(2)] (3) "Certificate of analysis" means a certificate from a laboratory describing the results of the laboratory's testing of a sample;

[(3)] (4) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's designated agent;

[(4)] (5) "Cultivate" means to plant, grow, harvest, handle and store a plant or crop;

[(5)] (6) "Federal act" means the United States Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, 7 USC 1639o et seq., as amended from time to time;

[(6)] (7) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

[(7)] (8) "Hemp" has the same meaning as provided in the federal act;

[(8)] (9) "Hemp products" means all manufacturer hemp products and producer hemp products;

[(9)] (10) "Independent testing laboratory" means a facility:

(A) For which no person who has any direct or indirect financial or

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

managerial interest in the laboratory and also has any direct or indirect interest in a facility that:

(i) Produces, distributes, manufactures or sells hemp or hemp products, or [marijuana] cannabis in any state or territory of the United States; or

(ii) Cultivates, processes, distributes, dispenses or sells [marijuana] cannabis; and

(B) That is accredited as a laboratory in compliance with section 21a-408-59 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies;

(11) "Infused beverage" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-425, as amended by this act;

(12) "Infused beverage manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-425, as amended by this act;

(13) "Intermediate hemp derivative" means an oil or concentrate that (A) is extracted directly and exclusively from raw hemp plant material, (B) contains a total THC, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended by this act, concentration of more than 0.3 per cent on a dry weight basis, and (C) is extracted by (i) adding heat, (ii) decarboxylation, (iii) adding (I) a Class 3 organic solvent within the meaning of the most recent United States Pharmacopeia, Chapter 467, as amended from time to time, or (II) another solvent approved by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, (iv) ethanol extraction, (v) carbon dioxide extraction, (vi) a solventless extraction method, including, but not limited to, the use of ice water, rosin pressing, dry sifting or steam distillation, or (vii) an extraction process not set forth in subparagraphs (C)(i) to (C)(vi), inclusive, of this subdivision, provided such extraction process has been approved by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

[(10)] (14) "Laboratory" means a laboratory that meets the requirements of 7 CFR 990.3 and that is accredited as a testing laboratory to International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025 by a third-party accrediting body such as the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation or the Assured Calibration and Laboratory Accreditation Select Services;

[(11)] (15) "Law enforcement agency" means the Connecticut State Police, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Consumer Protection Drug Control Division or any other federal, state or local law enforcement agency or drug suppression unit;

[(12)] (16) "Licensee" means an individual or entity that possesses a license to produce or manufacture hemp or hemp products in this state;

[(13)] (17) "Manufacture" means the conversion of the hemp plant into a by-product or an extract by means of (A) adding heat, [solvents or] (B) decarboxylation, (C) adding (i) a Class 3 organic solvent within the meaning of the most recent United States Pharmacopeia, Chapter 467, as amended from time to time, or (ii) another solvent approved by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, (D) ethanol extraction, (E) carbon dioxide extraction, (F) a solventless extraction method, including, but not limited to, the use of ice water, rosin pressing, dry sifting or steam distillation, or (G) any method of extraction that modifies the original composition of the plant for the purpose of creating a manufacturer hemp product for commercial or research purposes;

[(14)] (18) "Manufacturer" means a person in the state licensed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to manufacture, handle, store and market manufacturer hemp products pursuant to the provisions of section 22-61m, as amended by this act, and any regulation adopted pursuant to section 22-61m, as amended by this act;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

[(15)] (15) "Marijuana" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240;

[(16)] (19) "Market" or "marketing" means promoting, distributing or selling a hemp product within the state, in another state or outside of the United States and includes efforts to advertise and gather information about the needs or preferences of potential consumers or suppliers;

[(17)] (20) "On-site manager" means the individual designated by the producer license applicant or producer responsible for on-site management and operations of a licensed producer;

[(18)] (21) "Pesticide" has the same meaning as "pesticide chemical" as provided in section 21a-92;

[(19)] (22) "Lot" means a contiguous area in a field, greenhouse or indoor growing structure containing the same variety or strain of hemp throughout the area;

[(20)] (23) "Post-harvest sample" means a representative sample of the form of hemp taken from the harvested hemp from a particular lot's harvest that is collected in accordance with the procedures established by the commissioner;

[(21)] (24) "Pre-harvest sample" means a composite, representative portion from plants in a hemp lot, that is collected in accordance with the procedures established by the commissioner;

[(22)] (25) "Produce" means to cultivate hemp or create any producer hemp product;

[(23)] (26) "State plan" means a state plan, as described in the federal act and as authorized pursuant to this section;

[(24)] (27) "THC" means delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol;

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

[(25)] (28) "Controlled Substances Act" or "CSA" means the Controlled Substances Act as codified in 21 USC 801 et seq.;

[(26)] (29) "Criminal history report" means the fingerprint-based state and national criminal history record information obtained in accordance with section 29-17a;

[(27)] (30) "Drug Enforcement Administration" or "DEA" means the United States Drug Enforcement Administration;

[(28)] (31) "Farm service agency" or "FSA" means an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture;

[(29)] (32) "Key participant" means a sole proprietor, a partner in partnership or a person with executive managerial control in an entity, including persons such as a chief executive officer, chief operating officer and chief financial officer;

[(30)] (33) "Manufacturer hemp product" (A) means a commodity manufactured from the hemp plant, for commercial or research purposes, that (i) is intended for human ingestion, inhalation, absorption or other internal consumption, [that] and (ii) contains a THC concentration of not more than 0.3 per cent on a dry weight basis or per volume or weight of such manufacturer hemp product, and (B) does not include an infused beverage; [, as defined in section 21a-425;]

[(31)] (34) "Producer" means an individual or entity licensed by the commissioner to produce and market producer hemp products pursuant to the federal act, the state plan, the provisions of this section and the regulations adopted pursuant to this section;

[(32)] (35) "Producer hemp product" means any of the following produced in this state: Raw hemp product, fiber-based hemp product or animal hemp food product, and each of which contains a THC concentration of not more than 0.3 per cent on a dry weight basis or per

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

volume or weight of such producer hemp product;

[(33)] (36) "USDA" means the United States Department of Agriculture;

[(34)] (37) "Entity" means a corporation, joint stock company, association, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, irrevocable trust, estate, charitable organization or other similar organization, including any such organization participating in the hemp production as a partner in a general partnership, a participant in a joint venture or a participant in a similar organization; and

[(35)] (38) "Homogenize" means to blend hemp into a mixture that has a uniform quality and content throughout such mixture.

(b) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall establish and operate an agricultural pilot program, as defined in 7 USC 5940, as amended from time to time, for hemp research to enable the department, and its licensees, to study methods of producing and marketing hemp. All producer licensees licensed pursuant to this section shall be participants in the state agricultural pilot program for hemp research. Until such time as said commissioner adopts regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, the Department of Agriculture shall utilize procedures and guidance policies that the commissioner deems to be consistent with the provisions of 7 USC 5940, as amended from time to time, provided such procedures and guidance policies shall, at a minimum, require: (1) The commissioner to certify and register any site used to grow hemp, (2) any person who produces hemp to produce plants that meet the definition of hemp and verify such, (3) the maintenance of records by any person who grows hemp and the availability of inspection of such records by the commissioner, and (4) verification of compliance with the definition of hemp by a laboratory, at the expense of any licensee. The provisions of this section shall take

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

precedence over any such procedure or guidance policy. Participants in the state agricultural pilot program for hemp research shall be licensed in accordance with the provisions of this section. Such pilot program shall operate until the earlier of the date of a fully approved state plan under the federal act, as described in this section, or the date of repeal of the federal law permitting the state's agricultural pilot program for hemp research.

(c) (1) The commissioner shall prepare a state plan in accordance with the federal act and 7 CFR 990.3, for approval by the Governor, in consultation with the office of the Chief State's Attorney and the Attorney General. The state plan, once approved by the Governor and the Attorney General, shall be submitted by the commissioner to the United States Secretary of Agriculture for such secretary's approval. The commissioner shall have the authority to amend the state plan, in consultation with the Governor, the Attorney General and the office of the Chief State's Attorney, as necessary to comply with the federal act.

(2) The commissioner shall operate the state plan, which shall include, at a minimum, the following requirements:

(A) The sampling of hemp shall comply, at a minimum, with 7 CFR 990.3 and be performed by an authorized sampling agent;

(B) The testing of hemp shall comply, at a minimum, with 7 CFR 990.3;

(C) The control, remediation and disposal of noncompliant cannabis plants shall comply with 7 CFR 990.27 and 7 CFR 990.3;

(D) The department shall comply with all recordkeeping and reporting requirements in the federal act, and 7 CFR 990.1 to 7 CFR 990.71, inclusive;

(E) The department shall comply with enforcement procedures in 7

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

CFR 990.6;

(F) The department shall conduct annual inspections of, at a minimum, a random sample of producers to verify that hemp is not produced in violation of the federal act, the state plan and the provisions of this section, and shall enforce any violation as provided for in the federal act and as defined in 7 CFR 990.6;

(G) Producers shall report their required license, lot and hemp crop acreage information to FSA, in accordance with the requirements in 7 CFR 990.7; and

(H) Producers shall report to the commissioner the total acreage of hemp planted, harvested and, if applicable, disposed of or remediated, and such other information as the commissioner may require.

(3) All sampling and testing of hemp shall be done using protocols that are at least as statistically valid as the USDA's published protocols for sampling and testing of hemp, which protocols shall be posted on the department's Internet web site. During a scheduled sample collection, the producer, or an authorized representative of the producer, shall be present at the lot. A producer shall not harvest the cannabis crop prior to the taking of samples. Samples of hemp plant material from one lot shall not be commingled with hemp plant material from other lots. Lots tested and not certified by a laboratory at or below the acceptable hemp THC level shall be handled, remediated and disposed of in accordance with the federal act, the provisions of this section and the state plan, as applicable.

(4) The commissioner shall collect, maintain and provide to the USDA, on a timely basis, and not less than once per month, license status of each hemp producer, contact information for each hemp producer licensed in the state, including lot legal descriptions and locations, and any changes to such information. The commissioner shall also report to

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

the USDA, on a timely basis, and not less than once per month, all required hemp test results and disposal information for all nonconforming hemp plants and plant material. Such information shall not include state and federal fingerprint-based records pursuant to section 29-17a.

(d) The commissioner shall have the authority to enforce the federal act, as amended from time to time, the state plan, this section and any regulations adopted in accordance with the federal act and chapter 54 for hemp production in the state. The commissioner shall have the authority to enforce the applicable standards for producer hemp products. The commissioner may consult, collaborate and enter into cooperative agreements with any federal or state agency, municipality or political subdivision of the state concerning application of the provisions of the federal act and the regulations adopted pursuant to the federal act, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

(e) Any person who produces hemp shall: (1) Be licensed by the commissioner; (2) comply with the federal act, the state plan, the provisions of this section and any regulation adopted pursuant to this section; and (3) transport hemp and hemp samples in a manner and with such documentation as required by the commissioner.

(f) Any person who sells hemp products shall not be required to be licensed provided such person only engages in: (1) The retail or wholesale sale of hemp or hemp products in which no further producing or manufacturing of the hemp products occurs and the hemp products are acquired from a person authorized under the laws of this state or another state, territory or possession of the United States or another sovereign entity to possess and sell such hemp products; (2) the acquisition of hemp or hemp products for the sole purpose of product distribution for resale; or (3) the retail sale of hemp products that are otherwise authorized under federal or state law.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(g) Any applicant for a license pursuant to this section shall meet each of the following requirements, as applicable:

(1) Each applicant, whether an individual or an entity, shall submit an application for a license that consists, at a minimum, of the following: (A) The name, telephone number, electronic mail address, business address and address of any individual who is the applicant, the full name of any entity that is the applicant, including any applicable principal business location and the full name, title and electronic mail address of each key participant; (B) the name and address of each lot for the hemp cultivation or producing location; (C) the geospatial location of each lot by means of global positioning system coordinates and legal description of each lot used for the hemp cultivation; (D) the acreage size of each lot where the hemp will be cultivated; (E) written consent allowing the commissioner to conduct both scheduled and random inspections of and around the premises on which the hemp is to be cultivated, harvested, stored and produced; (F) the applicant's employer identification number or the applicant's Social Security number if an employer identification number is not available; and (G) any other information as may be required by the commissioner;

(2) Each individual who is an applicant and each key participant of any entity applying for a producer license, or renewal thereof, shall submit to state and national fingerprint-based criminal history records checks conducted in accordance with section 29-17a, at such individual's own expense;

(3) No individual, including any key participant of any entity, who has been convicted of any state or federal felony, related to a controlled substance, shall be eligible to obtain or hold a producer license for ten years from the date of the conviction, provided such restriction shall not apply to any individual who lawfully grew hemp with a license, registration or authorization under any state pilot program authorized by section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 before December 20, 2018.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

Any individual or entity that materially falsifies any information in an application pursuant to this section shall be ineligible to obtain a producer license; and

(4) Each individual or entity who is required by this section to obtain a producer license shall pay for all costs of sampling, testing, retesting and resampling any samples at a laboratory for the purpose of determining the THC concentration level of any cannabis under their control, or in their possession. Each individual or entity who is required by this section to obtain a producer license shall pay for all costs of disposal of all noncompliant cannabis plants under their control, or in their possession.

(h) Any producer license issued by the commissioner shall expire on the third following December thirty-first and may be renewed during the preceding month of October. Such licenses shall not be transferable.

(i) The following fees shall apply for each producer license and inspection:

(1) A nonrefundable license application fee of fifty dollars, provided any constituent unit of higher education, state agency or department shall be exempt from such application fee if such production is for research purposes;

(2) A nonrefundable triennial producer license fee of four hundred fifty dollars for up to one acre of planned hemp plantings and thirty dollars per each additional acre of planned hemp plantings rounded to the nearest acre, except no license fee charged shall exceed three thousand dollars, provided any constituent unit of higher education, state agency or department shall be exempt from such license fee if such production is for research purposes; and

(3) In the event that resampling by the commissioner is required due to a test result that shows a violation of any provision of this section or

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

any regulation adopted pursuant to this section, the licensee shall pay an inspection fee of fifty dollars. Such fee shall be paid prior to the inspection and collection of the sample to be used for resampling.

(j) After receipt and review of an application for producer licensure, the commissioner may grant a triennial license upon a finding that the applicant meets the applicable requirements. Each producer licensee shall notify the commissioner of any changes to their application information, not later than fifteen days after such change. While the pilot program is in effect, the commissioner may grant a conditional approval of a producer license, pending receipt of the criminal history records check required by this section. The commissioner shall assign each producer with a license or authorization identifier in a format consistent with 7 CFR 990.3.

(k) Whenever an inspection or investigation conducted by the commissioner pursuant to this title reveals any violation of the state plan, this section or any regulation adopted thereunder, the producer license applicant or respondent, as applicable, shall be notified, in writing, of such violation and any corrective action to be taken and the time period within which such corrective action shall be taken. Any such producer license applicant or respondent may request a hearing, conducted in accordance with chapter 54, on any such notification. Any notification issued pursuant to this section shall be made by certified mail, return receipt requested to the producer license applicant or respondent's last known address, by in-hand service by the commissioner or designated agent of the commissioner, electronic mail service with the consent of the recipient, or by service in accordance with chapter 896. The commissioner shall report all producer violations made with a culpable mental state greater than negligence to the United States Attorney General and the State's Attorney for the judicial district in which the producer violation occurred.

(l) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

commissioner's authority to issue a cease and desist order pursuant to section 22-4d, or an emergency order, in order to respond to a condition that may present a public health hazard, or issue orders necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section, including, but not limited to, orders for the embargo, partial destruction, destruction and release of hemp or hemp products. Any cease and desist order or an emergency order shall become effective upon service of such order by the commissioner. Following service of any such order, subsequent proceedings shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of section 22-4d and the rules of practice for such agency. Any embargo, partial destruction, destruction or release order issued pursuant to this section shall be served by certified mail, return receipt requested to the respondent's last known address, by in-hand service by the commissioner or designated agent of the commissioner, or by service in accordance with chapter 896.

(m) Following a hearing conducted in accordance with chapter 54, the commissioner may impose an administrative civil penalty, not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars per violation, and suspend, revoke or place conditions upon any producer licensee who violates the provisions of this section or any regulation adopted pursuant to this section.

(n) (1) Any individual who produces hemp in this state without obtaining a license pursuant to this section, or who produces hemp in this state after having a license suspended or revoked shall have committed an infraction.

(2) Any entity that produces hemp in this state without obtaining a license pursuant to this section, produces hemp in violation of this section or produces hemp in this state after having a license suspended or revoked may be fined not more than two thousand five hundred dollars per violation, after a hearing conducted in accordance with chapter 54.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(o) (1) Any negligent violation, as described in the federal act, of this section or the state plan shall be subject to enforcement in accordance with the federal act, and the state plan for negligent violations.

(2) For any negligent violation, a producer shall be required to correct such negligent violation, by means of a corrective action plan approved by the commissioner. Each corrective action plan shall include, at a minimum, a reasonable completion deadline for correction of the negligent violation, periodic reporting to the commissioner for at least two years and compliance with the state plan.

(3) Any producer that negligently violates the state plan shall not, as a result of such negligent violation, be referred by the commissioner for any criminal enforcement action by the federal, state or local government.

(4) Any producer that negligently violates the state plan three times during any five-year period shall be ineligible to produce hemp for a period of five years beginning on the date of the third violation.

(5) The commissioner shall conduct an inspection to determine if the corrective action plan for a producer who commits any such negligent violation was properly implemented.

(p) Any person aggrieved by an order issued pursuant to this section may appeal to the commissioner in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. Such appeal shall be made in writing to the commissioner and received not later than fifteen days after the date of the order. If no appeal is made pursuant to this subsection the order shall be final.

(q) (1) All documents submitted under this section shall be subject to disclosure in accordance with chapter 14, except: (A) Information depicting or describing (i) the test results of any producer, (ii) the location of any hemp growing, harvesting, processing or storage location, or (iii) hemp producer location security schematics; and (B) the

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

results of any criminal history records check.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, all documents and records submitted or maintained pursuant to this section shall be disclosed to any law enforcement agency upon request of such law enforcement agency.

(r) The commissioner may inspect and shall have access to the buildings, equipment, supplies, vehicles, records, real property and other information that the commissioner deems necessary to carry out the commissioner's duties pursuant to this section from any person participating in producing, handling, storing, marketing or researching hemp.

(s) All licensees pursuant to this section shall maintain records required by the federal act, the state plan, this section and any regulation adopted pursuant to this section. Each licensee shall make such records available to the department immediately upon request of the commissioner and in electronic format, if available.

(t) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section including, but not limited to, the labeling of producer hemp products.

(u) Whenever the commissioner believes or has reasonable cause to believe that the actions of a licensee or any employee of a producer licensee are in violation of the federal act, the state plan, or any state law concerning the growing, cultivation, handling, transporting or possession of [marijuana] cannabis, the commissioner shall notify the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Division of State Police.

Sec. 100. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(1) "Approved manufactured cannabinoid" means a manufactured cannabinoid, as defined in section 21a-240 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, that has been approved by the Department of Consumer Protection and posted on the department's Internet web site;

(2) "Cannabis product" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420 of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

(3) "Cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420 of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

(4) "Food and beverage manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420 of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

(5) "Micro-cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420 of the general statutes, as amended by this act; and

(6) "Product manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

(b) On and after December 1, 2026, a manufacturer may manufacture:

(1) Cannabigerol, cannabiniol or an approved manufactured cannabinoid, provided the manufacturer offers and sells such cannabigerol, cannabiniol or approved manufactured cannabinoid exclusively to a producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer or food and beverage manufacturer; and

(2) Intermediate hemp derivative to be incorporated into a manufacturer hemp product, provided the manufacturer offers and sells such intermediate hemp derivative exclusively to a producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer, food and beverage manufacturer or infused beverage manufacturer.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(c) (1) On and after December 1, 2026, a producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer or food and beverage manufacturer may purchase cannabigerol, cannabinal, an approved manufactured cannabinoid or intermediate hemp derivative from a manufacturer, provided such cannabigerol, cannabinal, approved manufactured cannabinoid or intermediate hemp derivative:

(A) Was manufactured in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section; and

(B) Is tracked as a separate batch throughout the manufacturing process in order to document the disposition of such cannabigerol, cannabinal, approved manufactured cannabinoid or intermediate hemp derivative.

(2) Once cannabigerol, cannabinal, an approved manufactured cannabinoid or intermediate hemp derivative is received by a producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer or food and beverage manufacturer, such cannabigerol, cannabinal, approved manufactured cannabinoid or intermediate hemp derivative shall be deemed cannabis and comply with the requirements for cannabis contained in the applicable provisions of the general statutes and any regulations adopted pursuant to such provisions.

(3) A producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer or food and beverage manufacturer shall retain:

(A) A copy of the certificate of analysis for the cannabigerol, cannabinal, approved manufactured cannabinoid or intermediate hemp derivative the producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer or food and beverage manufacturer purchased from a manufacturer; and

(B) Invoices and transport documents that evidence the quantity of cannabigerol, cannabinal, approved manufactured cannabinoid or

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

intermediate hemp derivative purchased from the manufacturer and the date the producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer or food and beverage manufacturer received such cannabigerol, cannabiniol, approved manufactured cannabinoid or intermediate hemp derivative.

(d) (1) On and after December 1, 2026, an infused beverage manufacturer may purchase intermediate hemp derivative from a manufacturer, provided such intermediate hemp derivative was manufactured in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section.

(2) An infused beverage manufacturer shall:

(A) Obtain from an independent testing laboratory, and retain, a certificate of analysis for the intermediate hemp derivative the infused beverage manufacturer purchased from a manufacturer in accordance with the laboratory testing standards established in the regulations adopted pursuant to section 21a-421j of the general statutes, as amended by this act; and

(B) Invoices and transport documents that evidence the quantity of intermediate hemp derivative purchased from the manufacturer and the date the infused beverage manufacturer received such intermediate hemp derivative.

(e) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, of the general statutes, the commissioner shall, prior to adopting such regulations and in order to effectuate the provisions of this section, issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of this section that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

policies and procedures on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 of the general statutes or July 1, 2028, if such regulations have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under section 4-170 of the general statutes. Such policies, procedures and regulations shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions concerning product tracking information, security and transportation.

Sec. 101. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) No provision of chapter 424 of the general statutes shall be construed to authorize the interstate transportation of any product in violation of federal law, including, but not limited to, the United States Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, 7 USC 1639o et seq., as amended from time to time.

Sec. 102. Subsection (r) of section 22-61m of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(r) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section including, but not limited to, establishing sampling and testing procedures to ensure compliance with this section, prescribing storage and disposal procedures for hemp, [marijuana] cannabis and manufacturer hemp products that fail to pass Department of Consumer Protection prescribed independent testing laboratory testing standards and establishing advertising and labeling requirements for manufacturer hemp products.

Sec. 103. Section 22-61n of the general statutes is repealed and the

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Cannabis product" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

[(1)] (2) "Cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

(3) "Food and beverage manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

[(2)] (4) "Hemp" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-61l, as amended by this act;

[(3)] (5) "Hemp products" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-61l, as amended by this act;

(6) "Infused beverage" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-425, as amended by this act;

(7) "Manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-61l, as amended by this act;

[(4)] (8) "Micro-cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

[(5)] (9) "Producer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act; and

[(6)] (10) "Product manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act.

(b) [Any] A producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, [and] food and beverage manufacturer or product manufacturer may manufacture, market, cultivate or store hemp and hemp products in accordance with

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

the provisions of this chapter and any regulations adopted pursuant to [said] this chapter. A producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, [and] food and beverage manufacturer or product manufacturer that obtains hemp and hemp products shall only obtain such hemp and hemp products from a person authorized under the laws of this state or another state, territory or possession of the United States or another sovereign entity to possess and sell such hemp and hemp products.

(c) Hemp or hemp products purchased by a producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer or product manufacturer [or food and beverage manufacturer] from a third party shall be tracked as a separate batch throughout the manufacturing process in order to document the disposition of such hemp or hemp products. Once hemp or hemp products are received by a producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer or product manufacturer [or food and beverage manufacturer] to manufacture a cannabis product, such hemp or hemp products shall be deemed cannabis and shall comply with the requirements for cannabis contained in the applicable provisions of the general statutes and any regulations adopted pursuant to such provisions. A producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer or product manufacturer [and food and beverage manufacturer] shall retain a copy of the certificate of analysis for purchased hemp or hemp products and invoice and transport documents that evidence the quantity purchased and date received.

Sec. 104. Section 30-1 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context indicates a different meaning:

(1) "Airline" means any (A) United States airline carrier holding a

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Civil Aeronautics Board under Section 401 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended from time to time, or (B) foreign flag carrier holding a permit under Section 402 of said act.

(2) "Alcohol" (A) means the product of distillation of any fermented liquid that is rectified at least once and regardless of such liquid's origin, and (B) includes synthetic ethyl alcohol which is considered nonpotable.

(3) "Alcoholic beverage" and "alcoholic liquor" include the four varieties of liquor defined in subdivisions (2), (5), [(21)] (22) and [(22)] (23) of this section (alcohol, beer, spirits and wine) and every liquid or solid, patented or unpatented, containing alcohol, beer, spirits or wine and at least one-half of one per cent alcohol by volume, and capable of being consumed by a human being as a beverage. Any liquid or solid containing more than one of the four varieties so defined belongs to the variety which has the highest percentage of alcohol according to the following order: Alcohol, spirits, wine and beer, except as provided in subdivision [(22)] (23) of this section.

(4) "Backer" means, except in cases where the permittee is the proprietor, the proprietor of any business or club, incorporated or unincorporated, that is engaged in manufacturing or selling alcoholic liquor and in which business a permittee is associated, whether as an agent, employee or part owner.

(5) "Beer" means any beverage obtained by the alcoholic fermentation of a decoction or infusion of barley, hops and malt in drinking water.

(6) "Boat" means any vessel that is (A) operating on any waterway of this state, and (B) engaged in transporting passengers for hire to or from any port of this state.

(7) "Business entity" means any incorporated or unincorporated association, corporation, firm, joint stock company, limited liability

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

company, limited liability partnership, partnership, trust or other legal entity.

(8) "Case price" means the price of a container made of cardboard, wood or any other material and containing units of the same class and size of alcoholic liquor. A case of alcoholic liquor, other than beer, cocktails, cordials, prepared mixed drinks and wines, shall be in the quantity and number, or fewer, with the permission of the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, of bottles or units as follows: (A) Six three thousand seven hundred fifty milliliter bottles, (B) six three thousand milliliter bottles, (C) six two thousand milliliter bottles, (D) six one thousand eight hundred milliliter bottles, (E) six one thousand seven hundred fifty milliliter bottles, (F) six one thousand five hundred milliliter bottles, (G) six nine hundred forty-five milliliter bottles, (H) twelve one liter bottles, (I) twelve nine hundred milliliter bottles, (J) twelve seven hundred fifty milliliter bottles, (K) twelve seven hundred twenty milliliter bottles, (L) twelve seven hundred ten milliliter bottles, (M) twelve seven hundred milliliter bottles, (N) twelve five hundred seventy milliliter bottles, (O) twelve five hundred milliliter bottles, (P) twelve four hundred seventy-five milliliter bottles, (Q) twenty-four three hundred seventy-five milliliter bottles, (R) twenty-four three hundred fifty-five milliliter bottles, (S) twenty-four three hundred fifty milliliter bottles, (T) twenty-four three hundred thirty-one milliliter bottles, (U) forty-eight two hundred fifty milliliter bottles, (V) forty-eight two hundred milliliter bottles, (W) forty-eight one hundred eighty-seven milliliter bottles, (X) sixty one hundred milliliter bottles, or (Y) one hundred twenty five milliliter bottles, except a case of fifty milliliter bottles may be in a quantity and number as originally configured, packaged and sold by the manufacturer or out-of-state shipper prior to shipment if the number of such bottles in such case is not greater than two hundred. The commissioner shall not authorize fewer quantities or numbers of bottles or units as specified in this subdivision for any one person or entity more than eight times in any calendar year. For the

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

purposes of this subdivision, "class" has the same meaning as provided in 27 CFR 4.21 for wine, 27 CFR 5.22 for spirits and 27 CFR 7.24 for beer.

(9) "Club" has the same meaning as provided in section 30-22aa.

(10) "Coliseum" has the same meaning as provided in section 30-33a.

(11) "Commission" means the Liquor Control Commission established under this chapter.

(12) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection.

(13) "Dining room" means any room or rooms (A) located in premises operating under (i) a hotel permit issued under section 30-21, (ii) a restaurant permit issued under subsection (a) of section 30-22, (iii) a restaurant permit for wine and beer issued under subsection (b) of section 30-22, (iv) a cafe permit issued under section 30-22a, or (v) a cafe permit for wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-22g, and (B) where meals are customarily served to any member of the public who has means of payment and a proper demeanor.

(14) "Infused beverage" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-425, as amended by this act.

[(14)] (15) "Mead" means fermented honey (A) with or without additions or adjunct ingredients, and (B) regardless of (i) alcohol content, (ii) process, and (iii) whether such honey is carbonated, sparkling or still.

[(15)] (16) "Minor" means any person who is younger than twenty-one years of age.

[(16)] (17) "Noncommercial entity" means an academic institution, charitable organization, government organization, nonprofit organization or similar entity that is not primarily dedicated to obtaining a commercial advantage or monetary compensation.

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

[(17)] (18) "Nonprofit club" has the same meaning as provided in section 30-22aa.

[(18)] (19) (A) "Person" means an individual, including, but not limited to, a partner.

(B) "Person" does not include any business entity.

[(19)] (20) (A) "Proprietor" includes all owners of a business or club, incorporated or unincorporated, that is engaged in manufacturing or selling alcoholic liquor, whether such owners are persons, fiduciaries, business entities, stockholders of corporations or otherwise.

(B) "Proprietor" does not include any person who, or business entity that, is merely a creditor, whether as a bond holder, franchisor, landlord or note holder, of a business or club, incorporated or unincorporated, that is engaged in manufacturing or selling alcoholic liquor.

[(20)] (21) "Restaurant" has the same meaning as provided in section 30-22.

[(21)] (22) "Spirits" means any beverage that contains alcohol obtained by distillation mixed with drinkable water and other substances in solution, including brandy, rum, whiskey and gin.

[(22)] (23) "Wine" means any alcoholic beverage obtained by fermenting the natural sugar content of fruits, such as apples, grapes or other agricultural products, containing such sugar, including fortified wines such as port, sherry and champagne.

Sec. 105. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 30-17d of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) For the purposes of this section, [(1) "Container"] "container" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-425, as amended by this

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

act. [; and

(2) "Infused beverage" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-425.]

(b) A fee of one dollar shall be assessed by the holder of a wholesaler permit or a wholesaler permit for beer issued under section 30-17 on each infused beverage container sold to the holder of a package store permit issued under subsection (b) of section 30-20, as amended by this act. Such fee shall not be subject to any sales tax or treated as income pursuant to any provision of the general statutes.

(c) On the second days of January [2, 2025, and every six months thereafter] and July, annually, each holder of a wholesaler permit or a wholesaler permit for beer issued under section 30-17 shall remit payment to the department for each infused beverage container sold during the preceding six-month period. The funds received by the department from infused beverage sales shall be deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established in section 21a-8a for the purposes of (1) protecting public health and safety, (2) educating consumers and licensees, and (3) ensuring compliance with cannabis and liquor control laws.

Sec. 106. Subsection (b) of section 30-20 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(b) (1) A package store permit shall allow the retail sale of alcoholic liquor in sealed bottles or containers not to be consumed on the permit premises. The holder of a package store permit may, in accordance with regulations adopted by the Department of Consumer Protection pursuant to the provisions of chapter 54, (A) offer free samples of alcoholic liquor for tasting on the permit premises, (B) conduct fee-based wine or spirits education and tasting classes and demonstrations,

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

and (C) conduct tastings or demonstrations provided by a permittee or backer of the package store for a nominal charge to charitable nonprofit organizations. Any offering, tasting, wine or spirits education and tasting class or demonstration held on permit premises shall be conducted only during the hours the package store may sell alcoholic liquor under section 30-91. No tasting of wine on the permit premises shall be offered from more than ten uncorked bottles at any one time. No holder, backer or permittee shall offer or provide to any customer (i) more than one-half ounce of any single spirit for sampling or tasting per day, or (ii) a total of more than two ounces of spirits for sampling or tasting per day. No tasting shall be provided below cost.

(2) No store operating under a package store permit shall sell any commodity other than alcoholic liquor except, notwithstanding any other provision of law, such store may sell (A) cigarettes and cigars, (B) publications, (C) bar utensils, including, but not limited to, corkscrews, beverage strainers, stirrers or other similar items used to consume, or related to the consumption of, alcoholic liquor, (D) gift packages of alcoholic liquor shipped into the state by a manufacturer or out-of-state shipper, which gift packages may include nonalcoholic items, other than food or tobacco products, if the dollar value of the nonalcoholic items in such gift package does not exceed the dollar value of the alcoholic items in such gift package, (E) complementary fresh fruits used in the preparation of mixed alcoholic beverages, (F) cheese, crackers or both, (G) olives, (H) nonalcoholic beverages, (I) concentrates used in the preparation of mixed alcoholic beverages, (J) beer and wine-making kits and products related to such kits, (K) ice in any form, (L) articles of clothing imprinted with advertising related to the alcoholic liquor industry, (M) gift baskets or other containers of alcoholic liquor, (N) multiple packages of alcoholic liquors, provided in all such cases the minimum retail selling price for such alcoholic liquor shall apply, (O) lottery tickets authorized by the Department of Consumer Protection, if licensed as an agent to sell such tickets by the department, (P) devices

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

and related accessories designed primarily for accessing and extracting a beverage containing alcohol from prepackaged containers, including, but not limited to, pods, pouches or similar containers, but excluding devices, including, but not limited to, household blenders, that are not designed primarily for such purposes, (Q) alcohol-infused confections containing not more than one-half of one per cent of alcohol by weight and which the commissioner has approved for sale under section 21a-101, (R) gift baskets containing only containers of alcoholic liquor and commodities authorized for sale under subparagraphs (A) to (Q), inclusive, of this subdivision, and (S) infused beverages, [as defined in section 21a-425,] provided (i) the package store permittee (I) paid to the department the annual fee for an infused beverage endorsement pursuant to this subdivision, and (II) purchased such infused beverages from the holder of a wholesaler permit or a wholesaler permit for beer issued under section 30-17 or an infused beverage wholesaler licensed under section 21a-425e, as amended by this act, and (ii) such sales are made in accordance with the provisions of section 21a-425b, as amended by this act. [, and (T) legacy infused beverages, as defined in section 21a-425d, provided all such sales shall be made (i) during the period beginning on July 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2024, and (ii) in accordance with (I) a waiver issued pursuant to section 21a-425d, and (II) the requirements set forth in section 21a-425d.] A package store permit shall also allow the taking and transmitting of orders for delivery of such merchandise in other states. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a package store permit shall allow the participation in any lottery ticket promotion or giveaway sponsored by the department. The annual fee for a package store permit shall be five hundred thirty-five dollars. The annual fee for an infused beverage endorsement to a package store permit shall be five hundred dollars, and shall be deposited by the department in the consumer protection enforcement account established in section 21a-8a.

Sec. 107. Subsection (a) of section 30-47 of the 2026 supplement to the

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) The Department of Consumer Protection may, in the department's discretion, suspend, revoke or refuse to grant or renew a permit for the sale of alcoholic liquor, or impose a fine of not greater than one thousand dollars per violation, if the department has reasonable cause to believe: (1) That the applicant or permittee appears to be financially irresponsible or neglects to provide for the applicant's or permittee's family, or neglects or is unable to pay the applicant's or permittee's just debts; (2) that the applicant or permittee has been provided with funds by any wholesaler or manufacturer or has any forbidden connection with any other class of permittee as provided in this chapter; (3) that the applicant or permittee is in the habit of using alcoholic beverages to excess; (4) that the applicant or permittee has wilfully made any false statement to the department in a material matter; (5) that the applicant or permittee has been convicted of violating any of the liquor laws of this or any other state or the liquor laws of the United States or has been convicted of a felony as such term is defined in section 53a-25, provided any action taken is based upon (A) the nature of the conviction and its relationship to the applicant or permittee's ability to safely or competently perform the duties associated with such permit, (B) information pertaining to the degree of rehabilitation of the applicant or permittee, and (C) the time elapsed since the conviction or release, or has such a criminal record that the department reasonably believes the applicant or permittee is not a suitable person to hold a permit, provided no refusal shall be rendered under this subdivision except in accordance with the provisions of sections 46a-80 and 46a-81; (6) that the applicant or permittee has not been delegated full authority and control of the permit premises and of the conduct of all business on such premises; or (7) that the applicant, applicant's backer, backer or permittee has violated (A) any provision of this chapter or any regulation adopted under this chapter, or (B) any provision of sections 21a-425 to [21a-425d]

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

21a-425f, inclusive, as amended by this act, or any regulation adopted under subsection [(k)] (l) of section 21a-425a, as amended by this act. Any applicant, applicant's backer or backer shall be subject to the same disqualifications as provided in this chapter, or any regulation adopted under this chapter, for permittees.

Sec. 108. Subsection (e) of section 30-63 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the sale or distribution of infused beverages, [or legacy infused beverages,] as [such terms are] defined in section 21a-425, as amended by this act.

Sec. 109. Subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section 31-40q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(6) "Cannabis" [means marijuana, as defined] has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act;

Sec. 110. Section 38a-1052 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Cannabis" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act;

[(1)] (2) "Caregiver" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

[(2) "Marijuana" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240;]

(3) "Palliative use" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

408, as amended by this act; and

(4) "Qualifying patient" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408, as amended by this act.

(b) There is established, within available appropriations, an Office of the Cannabis Ombudsman, which shall be within the Office of the Healthcare Advocate for administrative purposes only. The Office of the Cannabis Ombudsman shall be under the direction of a Cannabis Ombudsman. The Healthcare Advocate shall appoint an individual who is familiar with the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis and the medical cannabis system to serve as the Cannabis Ombudsman.

(c) The Office of the Cannabis Ombudsman shall:

(1) Represent the interests of qualifying patients and caregivers;

(2) Identify, investigate and resolve complaints made by, or on behalf of, qualifying patients and caregivers;

(3) Monitor the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis as authorized under chapter 420f;

(4) Report action, inaction or decisions that may adversely affect the health, safety, welfare or rights of qualifying patients;

(5) Analyze, comment on and monitor the development and implementation of federal, state and local laws, regulations and other government policies and actions concerning the health, safety, welfare and rights of qualifying patients and caregivers;

(6) Recommend any changes to the laws, regulations, policies and actions described in subdivision (5) of this subsection that the office deems appropriate to, among other things, improve the palliative [marijuana] cannabis market in this state; and

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

(7) Facilitate public comment on the laws, regulations, policies and actions described in subdivision (5) of this subsection.

Sec. 111. Section 53-247a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

Any person who provides cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act, to a domesticated animal, shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

Sec. 112. Subsection (a) of section 53a-213a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) A person is guilty of smoking, otherwise inhaling or ingesting cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act, while operating a motor vehicle when he or she smokes, otherwise inhales or ingests cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act, while operating a motor vehicle upon a public highway of this state or upon any road of any specially chartered municipal association or of any district organized under the provisions of chapter 105, a purpose of which is the construction and maintenance of roads and sidewalks, or in any parking area for ten cars or more, or upon any private road on which a speed limit has been established in accordance with the provisions of section 14-218a or upon any school property. No person shall be convicted of smoking or otherwise inhaling or ingesting cannabis while operating a motor vehicle and possessing or having under such person's control a controlled substance upon the same transaction. A person may be charged and prosecuted for either or each such offense, a violation of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of any drug and any other applicable offense upon the same information.

Sec. 113. Subsection (a) of section 53a-213b of the 2026 supplement to

Substitute House Bill No. 5350

the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) A person is guilty of smoking or otherwise inhaling or ingesting cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act, in a motor vehicle when he or she smokes or otherwise inhales or ingests cannabis in a motor vehicle that is being operated by another person upon a public highway of this state or upon any road of any specially chartered municipal association or of any district organized under the provisions of chapter 105, a purpose of which is the construction and maintenance of roads and sidewalks, or in any parking area for ten cars or more, or upon any private road on which a speed limit has been established in accordance with the provisions of section 14-218a or upon any school property. No person shall be convicted of smoking or otherwise inhaling or ingesting cannabis as a passenger in a motor vehicle and possessing or having under such person's control a controlled substance upon the same transaction, but such person may be charged and prosecuted for both offenses upon the same information.

Sec. 114. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection recommending legislation to establish a micro-retailer license in the state's adult use cannabis market.

Sec. 115. Sections 21a-425c and 21a-425d of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2026*)

Governor's Action:
Approved May 20, 2026