



House of Representatives

File No. 716

General Assembly

February Session, 2026

(Reprint of File No. 401)

Substitute House Bill No. 5350
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedules "A" and "D"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 22, 2026

AN ACT CONCERNING CANNABIS, HEMP AND INFUSED BEVERAGE REGULATION.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (q) of section 1-1 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (q) Except as otherwise specifically defined, the words "agriculture"
5 and "farming" include cultivation of the soil, dairying, forestry, raising
6 or harvesting any agricultural or horticultural commodity, including the
7 raising, shearing, feeding, caring for, training and management of
8 livestock, including horses, bees, the production of honey, poultry, fur-
9 bearing animals and wildlife, and the raising or harvesting of oysters,
10 clams, mussels, other molluscan shellfish or fish; the operation,
11 management, conservation, improvement or maintenance of a farm and
12 its buildings, tools and equipment, or salvaging timber or cleared land
13 of brush or other debris left by a storm, as an incident to such farming

14 operations; the production or harvesting of maple syrup or maple sugar,
15 or any agricultural commodity, including lumber, as an incident to
16 ordinary farming operations or the harvesting of mushrooms, the
17 hatching of poultry, or the construction, operation or maintenance of
18 ditches, canals, reservoirs or waterways used exclusively for farming
19 purposes; handling, planting, drying, packing, packaging, processing,
20 freezing, grading, storing or delivering to storage or to market, or to a
21 carrier for transportation to market, or for direct sale any agricultural or
22 horticultural commodity as an incident to ordinary farming operations,
23 or, in the case of fruits and vegetables, as an incident to the preparation
24 of such fruits or vegetables for market or for direct sale. The term "farm"
25 includes farm buildings, and accessory buildings thereto, nurseries,
26 orchards, ranges, greenhouses, hoopouses and other temporary
27 structures or other structures used primarily for the raising and, as an
28 incident to ordinary farming operations, the sale of agricultural or
29 horticultural commodities. The terms "agriculture" and "farming" do not
30 include the cultivation of cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-
31 240, as amended by this act. The term "aquaculture" means the farming
32 of the waters of the state and tidal wetlands and the production of
33 protein food, including fish, oysters, clams, mussels and other
34 molluscan shellfish, on leased, franchised and public underwater farm
35 lands. Nothing herein shall restrict the power of a local zoning authority
36 under chapter 124.

37 Sec. 2. Subparagraph (H) of subdivision (7) of subsection (c) of section
38 7-148 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted
39 in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

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

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

- 47 (iii) Regulate auctions and garage and tag sales;
- 48 (iv) Prohibit, restrain, license and regulate the business of peddlers,
49 auctioneers and junk dealers in a manner not inconsistent with the
50 general statutes;
- 51 (v) Regulate and prohibit swimming or bathing in the public or
52 exposed places within the municipality;
- 53 (vi) Regulate and license the operation of amusement parks and
54 amusement arcades including, but not limited to, the regulation of
55 mechanical rides and the establishment of the hours of operation;
- 56 (vii) Prohibit, restrain, license and regulate all sports, exhibitions,
57 public amusements and performances and all places where games may
58 be played;
- 59 (viii) Preserve the public peace and good order, prevent and quell
60 riots and disorderly assemblages and prevent disturbing noises;
- 61 (ix) Establish a system to obtain a more accurate registration of births,
62 marriages and deaths than the system provided by the general statutes
63 in a manner not inconsistent with the general statutes;
- 64 (x) Control insect pests or plant diseases in any manner deemed
65 appropriate;
- 66 (xi) Provide for the health of the inhabitants of the municipality and
67 do all things necessary or desirable to secure and promote the public
68 health;
- 69 (xii) Regulate the use of streets, sidewalks, highways, public places
70 and grounds for public and private purposes;
- 71 (xiii) Make and enforce police, sanitary or other similar regulations
72 and protect or promote the peace, safety, good government and welfare
73 of the municipality and its inhabitants;

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

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

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

131 (xvi) Regulate, on any property owned by or under the control of the
132 municipality, any activity deemed to be deleterious to public health,
133 including the burning of a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or similar device,
134 whether containing, wholly or in part, tobacco or cannabis, as defined
135 in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act, and the use or
136 consumption of cannabis, including, but not limited to, electronic
137 cannabis delivery systems, as defined in section 19a-342a, as amended
138 by this act, or vapor products, as defined in said section, containing
139 cannabis. If the municipality's population is greater than fifty thousand,
140 such regulations shall designate a place in the municipality in which
141 public consumption of cannabis is permitted. Such regulations may

142 prohibit the smoking of cannabis and the use of electronic cannabis
143 delivery systems and vapor products containing cannabis in the
144 outdoor sections of a restaurant. Such regulations may prescribe
145 penalties for the violation of such regulations, provided such fine does
146 not exceed fifty dollars for a violation of such regulations regarding
147 consumption by an individual or a fine in excess of one thousand dollars
148 to any business for a violation of such regulations;

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

152 (1) "Cannabis" has the same meaning as provided in section [21a-420]
153 21a-240, as amended by this act;

154 Sec. 4. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (120) of section 12-412 of the
155 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
156 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

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

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

166 Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, revision of 1958,
167 revised to January 1, 2021, any outstanding liabilities or assessments, or
168 any portion thereof, made under said chapter related to the sale,
169 purchase, acquisition or possession within the state or the transport or
170 importation into the state, of [marijuana] cannabis, as defined in section
171 21a-240, as amended by this act, shall be cancelled. The Commissioner
172 of Revenue Services may take any action necessary to effectuate the

173 cancellation of such liabilities and assessments. No cancellation of a
174 liability or an assessment pursuant to this section shall entitle any
175 person affected by such cancellation to a refund or credit of any amount
176 previously paid or collected in connection with such liability or
177 assessment.

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

181 (13) "Cannabis" has the same meaning as provided in section [21a-
182 420] 21a-240, as amended by this act; and

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

186 (d) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued to any
187 applicant who is sixteen or seventeen years of age unless the applicant
188 has held a youth instruction permit and has satisfied the requirements
189 specified in this subsection. The applicant shall (A) submit to the
190 commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner shall direct, a
191 certificate of the successful completion (i) in a public secondary school,
192 a technical education and career school or a private secondary school of
193 a full course of study in motor vehicle operation prepared as provided
194 in section 14-36e, (ii) of training of similar nature provided by a licensed
195 drivers' school approved by the commissioner, or (iii) of home training
196 in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection, including, in each
197 case, or by a combination of such types of training, successful
198 completion of: Not less than forty clock hours of behind-the-wheel, on-
199 the-road instruction for applicants to whom a youth instruction permit
200 is issued on or after August 1, 2008; (B) submit to the commissioner, in
201 such manner as the commissioner shall direct, a certificate of the
202 successful completion of (i) a course of not less than eight hours relative
203 to safe driving practices, including a minimum of four hours on the
204 nature and the medical, biological and physiological effects of alcohol

205 and drugs, including cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240,
206 as amended by this act, and their impact on the operator of a motor
207 vehicle, the dangers associated with the operation of a motor vehicle
208 after the consumption of alcohol or drugs by the operator, the problems
209 of alcohol and drug abuse, the penalties for alcohol and drug-related
210 motor vehicle violations and a video presentation specific to the impact
211 of cannabis on the operator of a motor vehicle and how the ingestion of
212 cannabis can cause impairment of motor function, reaction time,
213 perception and peripheral vision, and (ii) for applicants to whom a
214 youth instruction permit is issued on or after January 1, 2026, the
215 highway work zone and roadside vehicle safety awareness program
216 established in section 14-111r; and (C) pass an examination which may
217 include a comprehensive test as to knowledge of the laws concerning
218 motor vehicles and the rules of the road in addition to the test required
219 under subsection (c) of this section and shall include an on-the-road
220 skills test as prescribed by the commissioner. At the time of application
221 and examination for a motor vehicle operator's license, an applicant
222 sixteen or seventeen years of age shall have held a youth instruction
223 permit for not less than one hundred eighty days, except that an
224 applicant who presents a certificate under subparagraph (A)(i) or
225 [subparagraph] (A)(ii) of this subdivision shall have held a youth
226 instruction permit for not less than one hundred twenty days and an
227 applicant who is undergoing training and instruction by the driver
228 training unit for persons with disabilities in accordance with the
229 provisions of section 14-11b shall have held such permit for the period
230 of time required by said unit. The commissioner shall approve the
231 content of the safe driving practices course at drivers' schools, high
232 schools and other secondary schools. Subject to such standards and
233 requirements as the commissioner may impose, the commissioner may
234 authorize any drivers' school, licensed in good standing in accordance
235 with the provisions of section 14-69, or secondary school driver
236 education program authorized pursuant to the provisions of section 14-
237 36e, to administer the comprehensive test as to knowledge of the laws
238 concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the road, required pursuant
239 to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, as part of the safe driving

240 practices course required pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this
241 subdivision, and to certify to the commissioner, under oath, the results
242 of each such test administered. Such hours of instruction required by
243 this subdivision shall be included as part of or in addition to any existing
244 instruction programs. Any fee charged for the course required under
245 subparagraph (B)(i) or (B)(ii) of this subdivision shall not exceed two
246 hundred dollars. Any applicant sixteen or seventeen years of age who,
247 while a resident of another state, completed the course required in
248 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, but did not complete the safe
249 driving practices course required in subparagraph (B) of this
250 subdivision, shall complete the safe driving practices course. The
251 commissioner may waive any requirement in this subdivision, except
252 for the requirements of subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, in the case
253 of an applicant sixteen or seventeen years of age who holds a valid
254 motor vehicle operator's license issued by any other state, provided the
255 commissioner is satisfied that the applicant has received training and
256 instruction of a similar nature.

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

260 (2) In any prosecution for a violation of subdivision (1) of subsection
261 (a) of this section in which it is alleged that the defendant's operation of
262 a motor vehicle was impaired, in whole or in part, by consumption of
263 cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act,
264 the court may take judicial notice that the ingestion of cannabis (A) can
265 impair a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle; (B) can cause
266 impairment of motor function, reaction time, tracking ability, cognitive
267 attention, decision-making, judgment, perception, peripheral vision,
268 impulse control or memory; and (C) does not enhance a person's ability
269 to safely operate a motor vehicle.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

295 (1) "Cannabis" has the same meaning as provided in section [21a-420]
296 21a-240, as amended by this act;

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

300 (a) There shall be a State-Wide Cannabis, [and] Hemp and Controlled
301 Substances Enforcement [Policy] Board consisting of the Attorney
302 General, the Chief State's Attorney, the Commissioner of Consumer

303 Protection, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
304 Protection, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services
305 [, the Commissioner of Public Health,] and the Commissioner of
306 Revenue Services, [and the executive director of the Social Equity
307 Council,] or their designees.

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

316 (c) The quarterly meetings of the board, and all documents related to
317 such meetings, shall not be available to the public or subject to
318 inspection or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as
319 defined in section 1-200.

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

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

334 Sec. 15. Subsection (d) of section 21a-106 of the general statutes is

335 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
336 *1, 2026*):

337 (d) If it is for use by man and contains any quantity of the narcotic or
338 hypnotic substance alpha-eucaine, beta-eucaine, bromal, cannabis,
339 carbromal, chloral, coca, cocaine, codeine, heroin, [marijuana],
340 morphine, opium, paraldehyde, peyote or sulphonmethane, or any
341 chemical derivative of any such substance, which derivative has been
342 designated as habit-forming by regulations promulgated under Section
343 352(d) of the federal act; unless its label bears the name and quantity or
344 proportion of such substance or derivative and in juxtaposition
345 therewith the statement "Warning-may be habit-forming";

346 Sec. 16. Subdivisions (20) to (29), inclusive, of section 21a-240 of the
347 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
348 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

349 (20) (A) "Drug paraphernalia" means equipment, products and
350 materials of any kind that are used, intended for use or designed for use
351 in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting,
352 manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing,
353 preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing,
354 containing or concealing, or ingesting, inhaling or otherwise
355 introducing into the human body, any controlled substance contrary to
356 the provisions of this chapter, including, but not limited to: (i) Kits
357 intended for use or designed for use in planting, propagating,
358 cultivating, growing or harvesting [of] any species of plant that is a
359 controlled substance or from which a controlled substance can be
360 derived; (ii) kits used, intended for use or designed for use in
361 manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing or
362 preparing controlled substances; (iii) isomerization devices used or
363 intended for use in increasing the potency of any species of plant that is
364 a controlled substance; (iv) testing equipment used, intended for use or
365 designed for use in identifying or analyzing the strength, effectiveness
366 or purity of controlled substances; (v) dilutents and adulterants,
367 including, but not limited to, quinine hydrochloride, mannitol, mannite,

368 dextrose and lactose used, intended for use or designed for use in
369 cutting controlled substances; (vi) separation gins and sifters used,
370 intended for use or designed for use in removing twigs and seeds from,
371 or in otherwise cleaning or refining, [marijuana] cannabis; (vii) capsules
372 and other containers used, intended for use or designed for use in
373 packaging small quantities of controlled substances; (viii) containers
374 and other objects used, intended for use or designed for use in storing
375 or concealing controlled substances; and (ix) objects used, intended for
376 use or designed for use in ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing
377 [marijuana] cannabis, cocaine, hashish or hashish oil into the human
378 body, including, but not limited to, wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic
379 or ceramic pipes with screens, permanent screens, hashish heads or
380 punctured metal bowls; water pipes; carburetion tubes and devices;
381 smoking and carburetion masks; roach clips; miniature cocaine spoons
382 and cocaine vials; chamber pipes; carburetor pipes; electric pipes; air-
383 driven pipes; chillums; bongos; ice pipes and chillers. "Drug
384 paraphernalia" does not include a product used by a manufacturer
385 licensed pursuant to this chapter for the activities permitted under the
386 license or by an individual to test any substance prior to injection,
387 inhalation or ingestion of the substance to prevent accidental overdose
388 by injection, inhalation or ingestion of the substance, provided the
389 licensed manufacturer or individual is not using the product to engage
390 in the unlicensed manufacturing or distribution of controlled
391 substances. As used in this subdivision, "roach clip" means an object
392 used to hold burning material, including, but not limited to, a
393 [marijuana] cannabis cigarette, that has become too small or too short to
394 be held between the fingers.

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

401 (21) "Federal Controlled Substances Act, 21 USC 801 et seq." means

402 Public Law 91-513, the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and
403 Control Act of 1970.

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

406 (23) "Hallucinogenic substances" are psychodysleptic substances,
407 other than cannabis-type substances, which assert a confusional or
408 disorganizing effect upon mental processes or behavior and mimic
409 acute psychotic disturbances. Exemplary of such drugs are mescaline,
410 peyote, psilocyn and d-lysergic acid diethylamide, which are controlled
411 substances under this chapter unless modified.

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

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

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

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

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

453 (29) ["Marijuana"] "Cannabis" (A) means all parts of any plant [,] or
454 species of the genus cannabis, or any infra specific taxon thereof,
455 whether growing or not; [the] (B) includes (i) every resin extracted from
456 any part of [the plant; every] such plant, including, but not limited to,
457 every resin extracted from (I) the mature stalks of such plant, (II) the
458 fiber produced from the mature stalks of such plant, or (III) the oil or
459 cake made from the seeds of such plant, (ii) every other compound,
460 manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of such plant [,] or
461 its resin, [; any] and (iii) every (I) high-THC hemp product, [;] (II)
462 manufactured [cannabinoids;] cannabinoid, or [cannabinon,] (III)
463 cannabinol or cannabidiol and chemical compounds which are similar
464 to [cannabinon,] cannabinol or cannabidiol in chemical structure or
465 which are similar thereto in physiological effect, which are controlled
466 substances under this chapter, except cannabidiol derived from hemp,

467 as defined in section 22-61l, as amended by this act, that is not a high-
468 THC hemp product; ["Marijuana"] and (C) does not include [: (A) The
469 (i) the mature stalks of such plant, (ii) the fiber produced from [such
470 stalks,] the mature stalks of such plant, (iii) the oil or cake made from
471 the seeds of such plant, (iv) any other compound, manufacture, salt,
472 derivative, mixture or preparation of [such] the mature stalks [, except
473 the resin extracted from such mature stalks or fiber, oil or cake; (B) the
474 seed] of such plant, (v) the seeds of such plant, [; (C)] (vi) hemp, as
475 defined in section 22-61l, as amended by this act, [(i)] (I) with a total THC
476 concentration of not more than three-tenths per cent on a dry-weight
477 basis, and [(ii)] (II) that is not a high-THC hemp product, [; (D)] (vii)
478 cannabinol, cannabigerol, cannabichromene or any other minor
479 cannabinoid derived from hemp, (viii) any substance approved by the
480 federal Food and Drug Administration or successor agency as a drug
481 and reclassified in any schedule of controlled substances or
482 unscheduled by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or
483 successor agency which is included in the same schedule designated by
484 the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or successor agency, [;] or
485 [(E)] (ix) any infused [beverages] beverage, as defined in section 21a-
486 425, as amended by this act.

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

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

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

504 Sec. 18. Subsection (a) of section 21a-246 of the general statutes is
505 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
506 *1, 2026*):

507 (a) No person within this state shall manufacture, wholesale,
508 repack, supply, compound, mix, cultivate or grow, or by other
509 process produce or prepare, controlled substances without first
510 obtaining a license to do so from the Commissioner of Consumer
511 Protection and no person within this state shall operate a laboratory for
512 the purpose of research or analysis using controlled substances without
513 first obtaining a license to do so from the Commissioner of Consumer
514 Protection, except that such activities by pharmacists or pharmacies in
515 the filling and dispensing of prescriptions or activities incident thereto,
516 or the dispensing or administering of controlled substances by dentists,
517 podiatrists, physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice
518 registered nurses or veterinarians, or other persons acting under their
519 supervision, in the treatment of patients shall not be subject to the
520 provisions of this section, and provided laboratories for instruction in
521 dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, pharmacology and
522 pharmacognosy in institutions duly licensed for such purposes in this
523 state shall not be subject to the provisions of this section except with
524 respect to narcotic drugs and schedule I and II controlled substances.
525 Upon application of any physician or physician assistant licensed
526 pursuant to chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered nurse
527 licensed pursuant to chapter 378, the Commissioner of Consumer
528 Protection shall without unnecessary delay, (1) license such physician to
529 possess and supply [marijuana] cannabis for the treatment of glaucoma
530 or the side effects of chemotherapy, or (2) license such physician
531 assistant or advanced practice registered nurse to possess and supply
532 [marijuana] cannabis for the treatment of the side effects of
533 chemotherapy. No person outside this state shall sell or supply
534 controlled substances within this state without first obtaining a license

535 to do so from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, provided no
536 such license shall be required of a manufacturer whose principal place
537 of business is located outside this state and who is registered with the
538 federal Drug Enforcement Administration or other federal agency, and
539 who files a copy of such registration with the appropriate licensing
540 authority under this chapter.

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

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

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

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

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

565 (a) (1) Any person who possesses or has under such person's control

566 any quantity of any controlled substance, except any quantity of
567 cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act,
568 and except as authorized in this chapter or chapter 420f, shall be guilty
569 of a class A misdemeanor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

587 [(2)] (3) "Cannabis establishment" has the same meaning as provided
588 in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

589 [(3)] (4) "Cannabis testing laboratory" means a person who (A) is
590 located in this state, (B) is licensed by the department to analyze
591 [marijuana] cannabis, and (C) meets the licensure requirements
592 established in section 21a-408r, as amended by this act, and the
593 regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (d) of section 21a-408r, as
594 amended by this act;

595 [(4)] (5) "Cannabis testing laboratory employee" means a person who
596 is (A) employed at a cannabis testing laboratory, and (B) registered
597 pursuant to section 21a-408r, as amended by this act, and the regulations
598 adopted pursuant to subsection (d) of section 21a-408r, as amended by
599 this act;

600 [(5)] (6) "Caregiver" means a person, other than the qualifying patient
601 and the qualifying patient's physician, physician assistant or advanced
602 practice registered nurse, who is eighteen years of age or older and has
603 agreed to undertake responsibility for managing the well-being of the
604 qualifying patient with respect to the palliative use of [marijuana]
605 cannabis, provided (A) in the case of a qualifying patient (i) under
606 eighteen years of age and not an emancipated minor, or (ii) otherwise
607 lacking legal capacity, such person shall be a parent, guardian or person
608 having legal custody of such qualifying patient, and (B) in the case of a
609 qualifying patient eighteen years of age or older or an emancipated
610 minor, the need for such person shall be evaluated by the qualifying
611 patient's physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered
612 nurse and such need shall be documented in the written certification;

613 [(6)] (7) "Cultivation" includes planting, propagating, cultivating,
614 growing and harvesting;

615 [(7)] (8) "Debilitating medical condition" means (A) cancer, glaucoma,
616 positive status for human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune
617 deficiency syndrome, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, damage to
618 the nervous tissue of the spinal cord with objective neurological
619 indication of intractable spasticity, epilepsy or uncontrolled intractable
620 seizure disorder, cachexia, wasting syndrome, Crohn's disease,
621 posttraumatic stress disorder, irreversible spinal cord injury with
622 objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity, cerebral palsy,
623 cystic fibrosis or terminal illness requiring end-of-life care, except, if the
624 qualifying patient is under eighteen years of age, "debilitating medical
625 condition" means terminal illness requiring end-of-life care, irreversible
626 spinal cord injury with objective neurological indication of intractable
627 spasticity, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, severe epilepsy or uncontrolled

628 intractable seizure disorder, or (B) any medical condition, medical
629 treatment or disease approved for qualifying patients by the
630 Department of Consumer Protection and posted online pursuant to
631 section 21a-408~~l~~, as amended by this act;

632 [(8)] (9) "Dispensary facility" means a place of business, for which the
633 department has issued a dispensary facility license pursuant to this
634 chapter, where [marijuana] cannabis may be dispensed, sold or
635 distributed in accordance with this chapter and any regulations adopted
636 thereunder to qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients,
637 caregivers [and for which the department has issued a dispensary
638 facility license pursuant to this chapter] and qualifying out-of-state
639 caregivers;

640 [(9)] (10) "Employee" has the same meaning as provided in section
641 21a-420, as amended by this act;

642 [(10)] (11) "Institutional animal care and use committee" means a
643 committee that oversees an organization's animal program, facilities
644 and procedures to ensure compliance with federal policies, guidelines
645 and principles related to the care and use of animals in research;

646 [(11)] (12) "Institutional review board" means a specifically
647 constituted review body established or designated by an organization
648 to protect the rights and welfare of persons recruited to participate in
649 biomedical, behavioral or social science research;

650 [(12)] (13) "Licensed dispensary" or "dispensary" means an individual
651 who is a licensed pharmacist employed by a dispensary facility or a
652 hybrid retailer, as defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

653 [(13)] "Marijuana" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-
654 240;]

655 (14) "Nurse" means a person who is licensed as a nurse under chapter
656 378;

657 (15) "Palliative use" (A) means (i) the acquisition, distribution,

658 transfer, possession, use or transportation of [marijuana] cannabis or
659 paraphernalia relating to [marijuana] cannabis, including the transfer of
660 [marijuana] cannabis and paraphernalia relating to [marijuana]
661 cannabis from the qualifying patient's caregiver to the qualifying
662 patient, to alleviate a qualifying patient's symptoms of a debilitating
663 medical condition or the effects of such symptoms, [but] and (ii) the
664 acquisition, possession, use or transportation of cannabis or
665 paraphernalia relating to cannabis by a qualifying out-of-state patient,
666 including the transfer of cannabis and paraphernalia relating to
667 cannabis from the qualifying out-of-state patient's caregiver to the
668 qualifying out-of-state patient, and (B) does not include any such use of
669 [marijuana] cannabis by any person other than the qualifying patient or
670 qualifying out-of-state patient;

671 (16) "Paraphernalia" means drug paraphernalia, as defined in section
672 21a-240, as amended by this act;

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

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

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

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

688 (21) "Qualifying out-of-state credential" means a card or other

689 physical document issued by another state or jurisdiction of the United
690 States to a resident of such other state or jurisdiction that entitles such
691 resident to (A) engage in the palliative use of cannabis in such other state
692 or jurisdiction, or (B) undertake responsibility for managing the well-
693 being of a qualifying out-of-state patient with respect to the palliative
694 use of cannabis in such other state or jurisdiction;

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

700 ~~[(20)]~~ (23) "Qualifying patient" means a person who (A) is a resident
701 of Connecticut, (B) has been diagnosed by a physician, physician
702 assistant or advanced practice registered nurse as having a debilitating
703 medical condition, and (C) (i) is eighteen years of age or older, (ii) is an
704 emancipated minor, or (iii) has written consent from a custodial parent,
705 guardian or other person having legal custody of such person that
706 indicates that such person has permission from such parent, guardian
707 or other person for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis for a
708 debilitating medical condition and that such parent, guardian or other
709 person will (I) serve as a caregiver for the qualifying patient, and (II)
710 control the acquisition and possession of [marijuana] cannabis and any
711 related paraphernalia for palliative use on behalf of such person.
712 "Qualifying patient" does not include an inmate confined in a
713 correctional institution or facility under the supervision of the
714 Department of Correction;

715 ~~[(21)]~~ (24) "Research program" means a study approved by the
716 Department of Consumer Protection in accordance with this chapter
717 and undertaken to increase information or knowledge regarding the
718 growth or processing of [marijuana] cannabis, or the medical attributes,
719 dosage forms, administration or use of [marijuana] cannabis to treat or
720 alleviate symptoms of any medical conditions or the effects of such
721 symptoms;

722 [(22)] (25) "Research program employee" means a person who (A) is
723 registered as a research program employee under section 21a-408t, or
724 (B) holds a temporary certificate of registration issued pursuant to
725 section 21a-408t;

726 [(23)] (26) "Research program subject" means a person registered as a
727 research program subject pursuant to section 21a-408v, as amended by
728 this act;

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

734 [(25)] (28) "Written certification" means a written certification issued
735 by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered
736 nurse pursuant to section 21a-408c, as amended by this act.

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

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

751 (1) The qualifying patient's physician, physician assistant or
752 advanced practice registered nurse has issued a written certification to

753 the qualifying patient for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis after
754 the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse
755 has prescribed, or determined it is not in the best interest of the patient
756 to prescribe, prescription drugs to address the symptoms or effects for
757 which the certification is being issued;

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

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

763 (4) Any cannabis plants grown by the qualifying patient in [his or]
764 the qualifying patient's home [is] are in compliance with subsection (b)
765 of section 21a-408d, as amended by this act, and any applicable
766 regulations.

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

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

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

784 in section 14-1; (iv) "motor bus" means a motor bus, as defined in section
785 14-1; and (v) "school bus" means a school bus, as defined in section 14-
786 1.

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

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

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

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

811 (b) (1) A caregiver who has a valid registration certificate from the
812 Department of Consumer Protection pursuant to subsection (a) of
813 section 21a-408d, as amended by this act, and complies with the
814 requirements of sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by
815 this act, shall not be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any

816 manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty,
817 or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being
818 subject to any disciplinary action by a professional licensing board, for
819 the acquisition, distribution, possession or transportation of [marijuana]
820 cannabis or paraphernalia related to [marijuana] cannabis on behalf of
821 such caregiver's qualifying patient, provided the amount of any
822 [marijuana] cannabis so acquired, distributed, possessed or transported,
823 together with the combined amount of usable [marijuana] cannabis
824 possessed by the qualifying patient and the caregiver, does not exceed
825 five ounces.

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

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

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

849 years of age.

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

853 (a) (1) A physician, physician assistant or advanced practice
854 registered nurse may issue a written certification to a qualifying patient
855 that authorizes the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis by the
856 qualifying patient. Such written certification shall be in the form
857 prescribed by the Department of Consumer Protection and shall include
858 a statement signed and dated by the qualifying patient's physician,
859 physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse stating that, in
860 such physician's, physician assistant's or advanced practice registered
861 nurse's professional opinion, (A) the qualifying patient has a
862 debilitating medical condition, and (B) the potential benefits of the
863 palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis would likely outweigh the health
864 risks of such use to the qualifying patient.

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

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

881 by the qualifying patient and the caregiver for palliative use.

882 (4) A physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered
883 nurse shall not be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any
884 manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty,
885 or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being
886 subject to any disciplinary action by the Connecticut Medical Examining
887 Board, the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing or other
888 professional licensing board, for providing a written certification under
889 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-408a, as amended by this
890 act, if:

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

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

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

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

912 (5) A physician assistant or nurse shall not be subject to arrest or
913 prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to,
914 being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege,
915 including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by
916 the Connecticut Medical Examining Board, Board of Examiners for
917 Nursing or other professional licensing board, for administering
918 [marijuana] cannabis to a qualifying patient or research program subject
919 in a hospital or health care facility licensed by the Department of Public
920 Health.

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

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

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

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

943 (C) Reviewed the electronic prescription drug monitoring program

944 established pursuant to section 21a-254 and verified that no other
945 licensed dispensary had prescribed or dispensed [marijuana] cannabis
946 to such individual during the one-year period immediately preceding
947 the date of such review.

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

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

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

974 (5) A licensed dispensary that issues a temporary written certification
975 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall ensure that all patient

976 assessment and eligibility documentation maintained pursuant to
977 subdivision (4) of this subsection is made readily available to the
978 department, and shall submit any such documentation to the
979 department, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, not
980 later than forty-eight hours after the department requests such
981 documentation.

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

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

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

998 Sec. 27. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 21a-408d of the
999 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1000 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1001 (a) Each qualifying patient who is issued a written certification for the
1002 palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis under subdivision (1) of
1003 subsection (a) of section 21a-408a, as amended by this act, and the
1004 caregiver of such qualifying patient, shall register with the Department
1005 of Consumer Protection. Such registration shall be effective from the
1006 date the Department of Consumer Protection issues a certificate of
1007 registration until the expiration of the written certification issued by the

1008 physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse.
1009 The qualifying patient and the caregiver shall provide sufficient
1010 identifying information, as determined by the department, to establish
1011 the personal identity of the qualifying patient and the caregiver. If the
1012 qualifying patient is under eighteen years of age and not an
1013 emancipated minor, the custodial parent, guardian or other person
1014 having legal custody of the qualifying patient shall also provide a letter
1015 from both the qualifying patient's care provider and a physician who is
1016 board certified in an area of medicine involved in the treatment of the
1017 debilitating condition for which the qualifying patient was certified that
1018 confirms that the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis is in the best
1019 interest of the qualifying patient. A physician may issue a written
1020 certification for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis by a
1021 qualifying patient who is under eighteen years of age, provided such
1022 written certification shall not be for [marijuana] cannabis in a dosage
1023 form that requires that the [marijuana] cannabis be smoked, inhaled or
1024 vaporized. The qualifying patient or the caregiver shall report any
1025 change in the identifying information to the department not later than
1026 five business days after such change. The department shall issue a
1027 registration certificate to the qualifying patient and to the caregiver.

1028 (b) Any qualifying patient who is eighteen years of age or older may
1029 cultivate up to three mature cannabis plants and three immature
1030 cannabis plants in the patient's primary residence at any given time,
1031 provided such plants are secure from access by any individual other
1032 than the patient or patient's caregiver and no more than twelve cannabis
1033 plants may be grown per household.

1034 (c) A dispensary shall not dispense any [marijuana] cannabis
1035 products in a smokable, inhalable or vaporizable form to (1) a qualifying
1036 patient who is under eighteen years of age or such qualifying patient's
1037 caregiver, or (2) a qualifying out-of-state patient who is under eighteen
1038 years of age or such qualifying out-of-state patient's qualifying out-of-
1039 state caregiver.

1040 Sec. 28. Section 21a-408e of the general statutes is repealed and the

1041 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1042 No person shall be subject to arrest or prosecution solely for being in
1043 the presence or vicinity of the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis as
1044 permitted under sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by
1045 this act.

1046 Sec. 29. Section 21a-408f of the general statutes is repealed and the
1047 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1048 Any [marijuana] cannabis, paraphernalia relating to [marijuana]
1049 cannabis, or other property seized by law enforcement officials from a
1050 qualifying patient, [or a] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or
1051 qualifying out-of-state caregiver in connection with the claimed
1052 palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis under sections 21a-408 to 21a-
1053 408m, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall be returned to the
1054 qualifying patient, [or the] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or
1055 qualifying out-of-state caregiver immediately upon the determination
1056 by a court that the qualifying patient, [or the] qualifying out-of-state
1057 patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver is entitled to the
1058 palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis under sections 21a-408 to 21a-
1059 408m, inclusive, as amended by this act, as evidenced by a decision not
1060 to prosecute, a dismissal of charges or an acquittal. The provisions of
1061 this section do not apply to any qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-
1062 of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver who fails
1063 to comply with the requirements for the palliative use of [marijuana]
1064 cannabis under sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by
1065 this act.

1066 Sec. 30. Section 21a-408g of the general statutes is repealed and the
1067 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1068 (a) Any person who makes a fraudulent representation to a law
1069 enforcement official of any fact or circumstance relating to the palliative
1070 use of [marijuana] cannabis in order to avoid arrest or prosecution
1071 under chapter 420b or any other provision of the general statutes shall
1072 be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

1073 (b) Any person who makes a fraudulent representation to a law
1074 enforcement official of any fact or circumstance relating to the issuance,
1075 contents or validity of a written certification for the palliative use of
1076 [marijuana] cannabis, or a document purporting to be such a written
1077 certification, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

1078 Sec. 31. Section 21a-408h of the general statutes is repealed and the
1079 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1080 (a) No person may act as a dispensary or represent that such person
1081 is a licensed dispensary unless such person has obtained a license from
1082 the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to this section.

1083 (b) No person may act as a dispensary facility or represent that such
1084 person is a licensed dispensary facility unless such person has obtained
1085 a license from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to
1086 this section.

1087 (c) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall determine the
1088 number of dispensary facilities appropriate to meet the needs of
1089 qualifying patients in this state and shall adopt regulations, in
1090 accordance with chapter 54, to provide for the licensure and standards
1091 for dispensary facilities in this state and specify the maximum number
1092 of dispensary facilities that may be licensed in this state. On and after
1093 the effective date of such regulations, the commissioner may license any
1094 person who applies for a license in accordance with such regulations,
1095 provided the commissioner deems such applicant qualified to acquire,
1096 possess, distribute and dispense marijuana pursuant to sections 21a-408
1097 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act. At a minimum, such
1098 regulations shall:

1099 (1) Indicate the maximum number of dispensary facilities that may
1100 be licensed in this state;

1101 (2) Provide that no marijuana may be dispensed from, obtained from
1102 or transferred to a location outside of this state;

1103 (3) Provide for renewal of dispensary facility licenses at least every
1104 two years;

1105 (4) Describe areas in this state where dispensary facilities may not be
1106 located, after considering the criteria for the location of retail liquor
1107 permit premises set forth in subsection (a) of section 30-46;

1108 (5) Establish health, safety and security requirements for dispensary
1109 facilities, which may include, but need not be limited to: (A) The ability
1110 to maintain adequate control against the diversion, theft and loss of
1111 marijuana acquired or possessed by the dispensary facility, and (B) the
1112 ability to maintain the knowledge, understanding, judgment,
1113 procedures, security controls and ethics to ensure optimal safety and
1114 accuracy in the distributing, dispensing and use of palliative marijuana;

1115 (6) Establish standards and procedures for revocation, suspension,
1116 summary suspension and nonrenewal of dispensary facility licenses,
1117 provided such standards and procedures are consistent with the
1118 provisions of subsection (c) of section 4-182; and

1119 (7) Establish other licensing, renewal and operational standards
1120 deemed necessary by the commissioner.

1121 (d) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter or chapter 420h:

1122 (1) Only a licensed dispensary or dispensary technician under the
1123 direction of a licensed dispensary may upload data to the electronic
1124 prescription drug monitoring program established pursuant to section
1125 21a-254, except such upload may be accomplished by way of an
1126 automated upload from the dispensary facility's point-of-sale system. A
1127 licensed dispensary shall conduct a daily audit of the data uploaded to
1128 such program pursuant to this subdivision. All other authorized
1129 activities of the dispensary facility, including, but not limited to, all such
1130 activities performed in connection with the sale, handling or
1131 management of marijuana for palliative use, may be performed by a
1132 licensed dispensary, dispensary technician or other registered employee
1133 of the dispensary facility.

1134 (2) A dispensary facility shall ensure that a licensed dispensary is
1135 available, either in-person or remotely, when the dispensary facility is
1136 open. The dispensary facility shall ensure that a licensed dispensary is
1137 readily available to provide telehealth consultations and, upon request
1138 by qualifying patients or caregivers, in-person consultations. Nothing in
1139 this subdivision shall be construed to require a dispensary facility to
1140 maintain a licensed dispensary at the dispensary facility for more than
1141 thirty-five hours per week either in-person or remotely.

1142 (3) A dispensary facility that offers telehealth consultations with a
1143 licensed dispensary shall (A) maintain technology that is capable of
1144 facilitating such telehealth consultations, and (B) make such telehealth
1145 consultations readily available and accessible, including, but not limited
1146 to, by telephone from a remote location outside of the dispensary
1147 facility.

1148 (4) Each dispensary facility shall conspicuously post and maintain a
1149 sign (A) at the main entrance of the dispensary facility, which sign shall
1150 (i) be at least twelve inches in height and eighteen inches in width, (ii)
1151 incorporate lettering in a size and style that is clear and legible, and (iii)
1152 state the name of the licensed dispensary who is available for
1153 consultations either in person or through telehealth, and (B) at each
1154 register or comparable point of sale within the dispensary facility, and
1155 on any Internet web site maintained by such dispensary facility, which
1156 sign shall (i) be at least eight inches in height and ten inches in width,
1157 (ii) incorporate lettering in a size and style that is clear and legible, and
1158 (iii) state "Pharmacist available for consultation" in a clear and legible
1159 manner.

1160 (5) No registered employee of a dispensary facility shall sell any
1161 marijuana for palliative use, unless such registered employee has
1162 completed at least (A) one hour of education concerning the types,
1163 availability, dosage and methods of administration of marijuana for
1164 palliative use, (B) one hour of education concerning professional ethics,
1165 (C) one hour of education concerning state and federal laws and
1166 regulations concerning patient privacy, and (D) one hour of education

1167 concerning developments in the palliative use of marijuana.

1168 (e) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt or amend
1169 regulations, as applicable, to implement the provisions of subsection (d)
1170 of this section. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-
1171 172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of subsection (d) of
1172 this section and to protect public health and safety, prior to adopting
1173 such regulations, the commissioner shall issue policies and procedures
1174 to implement the provisions of subsection (d) of this section that shall
1175 have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies
1176 and procedures on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet
1177 web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the joint standing
1178 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
1179 relating to consumer protection and the Secretary of the State for posting
1180 on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective
1181 date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no
1182 longer be effective upon the earlier of either adoption of such policy or
1183 procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or July 1, 2028.

1184 Sec. 32. Section 21a-408h of the general statutes, as amended by
1185 section 31 of this act, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1186 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1187 (a) No person may act as a dispensary or represent that such person
1188 is a licensed dispensary unless such person has obtained a license from
1189 the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to this section.

1190 (b) No person may act as a dispensary facility or represent that such
1191 person is a licensed dispensary facility unless such person has obtained
1192 a license from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to
1193 this section.

1194 (c) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall determine the
1195 number of dispensary facilities appropriate to meet the needs of
1196 qualifying patients in this state and shall adopt regulations, in
1197 accordance with chapter 54, to provide for the licensure and standards
1198 for dispensary facilities in this state and specify the maximum number

1199 of dispensary facilities that may be licensed in this state. On and after
1200 the effective date of such regulations, the commissioner may license any
1201 person who applies for a license in accordance with such regulations,
1202 provided the commissioner deems such applicant qualified to acquire,
1203 possess, distribute and dispense [marijuana] cannabis pursuant to
1204 sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act. At a
1205 minimum, such regulations shall:

1206 (1) Indicate the maximum number of dispensary facilities that may
1207 be licensed in this state;

1208 (2) Provide that no [marijuana] cannabis may be dispensed from,
1209 obtained from or transferred to a location outside of this state;

1210 (3) Provide for renewal of dispensary facility licenses at least every
1211 two years;

1212 (4) Describe areas in this state where dispensary facilities may not be
1213 located, after considering the criteria for the location of retail liquor
1214 permit premises set forth in subsection (a) of section 30-46;

1215 (5) Establish health, safety and security requirements for dispensary
1216 facilities, which may include, but need not be limited to: (A) The ability
1217 to maintain adequate control against the diversion, theft and loss of
1218 [marijuana] cannabis acquired or possessed by the dispensary facility,
1219 and (B) the ability to maintain the knowledge, understanding,
1220 judgment, procedures, security controls and ethics to ensure optimal
1221 safety and accuracy in the distributing, dispensing and use of palliative
1222 [marijuana] cannabis;

1223 (6) Establish standards and procedures for revocation, suspension,
1224 summary suspension and nonrenewal of dispensary facility licenses,
1225 provided such standards and procedures are consistent with the
1226 provisions of subsection (c) of section 4-182; and

1227 (7) Establish other licensing, renewal and operational standards
1228 deemed necessary by the commissioner.

1229 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this
1230 section, a retailer or hybrid retailer, as such terms are defined in section
1231 21a-420, as amended by this act, may use the term "dispensary" in any
1232 marketing, advertising or promotional material or in any signage,
1233 branding item, logo or label.

1234 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter or chapter
1235 420h:

1236 (1) Only a licensed dispensary or dispensary technician under the
1237 direction of a licensed dispensary may upload data to the electronic
1238 prescription drug monitoring program established pursuant to section
1239 21a-254, except such upload may be accomplished by way of an
1240 automated upload from the dispensary facility's point-of-sale system. A
1241 licensed dispensary shall conduct a daily audit of the data uploaded to
1242 such program pursuant to this subdivision. All other authorized
1243 activities of the dispensary facility, including, but not limited to, all such
1244 activities performed in connection with the sale, handling or
1245 management of [marijuana] cannabis for palliative use, may be
1246 performed by a licensed dispensary, dispensary technician or other
1247 registered employee of the dispensary facility.

1248 (2) A dispensary facility shall ensure that a licensed dispensary is
1249 available, either in-person or remotely, when the dispensary facility is
1250 open. The dispensary facility shall ensure that a licensed dispensary is
1251 readily available to provide telehealth consultations and, upon request
1252 by qualifying patients, ~~[or] qualifying out-of-state patients,~~ caregivers
1253 or qualifying out-of-state caregivers, in-person consultations. Nothing
1254 in this subdivision shall be construed to require a dispensary facility to
1255 maintain a licensed dispensary at the dispensary facility for more than
1256 thirty-five hours per week either in-person or remotely.

1257 (3) A dispensary facility that offers telehealth consultations with a
1258 licensed dispensary shall (A) maintain technology that is capable of
1259 facilitating such telehealth consultations, and (B) make such telehealth
1260 consultations readily available and accessible, including, but not limited

1261 to, by telephone from a remote location outside of the dispensary
1262 facility.

1263 (4) Each dispensary facility shall conspicuously post and maintain a
1264 sign (A) at the main entrance of the dispensary facility, which sign shall
1265 (i) be at least twelve inches in height and eighteen inches in width, (ii)
1266 incorporate lettering in a size and style that is clear and legible, and (iii)
1267 state the name of the licensed dispensary who is available for
1268 consultations either in person or through telehealth, and (B) at each
1269 register or comparable point of sale within the dispensary facility, and
1270 on any Internet web site maintained by such dispensary facility, which
1271 sign shall (i) be at least eight inches in height and ten inches in width,
1272 (ii) incorporate lettering in a size and style that is clear and legible, and
1273 (iii) state "Pharmacist available for consultation" in a clear and legible
1274 manner.

1275 (5) No registered employee of a dispensary facility shall sell any
1276 [marijuana] cannabis for palliative use, unless such registered employee
1277 has completed at least (A) one hour of education concerning the types,
1278 availability, dosage and methods of administration of [marijuana]
1279 cannabis for palliative use, (B) one hour of education concerning
1280 professional ethics, (C) one hour of education concerning state and
1281 federal laws and regulations concerning patient privacy, and (D) one
1282 hour of education concerning developments in the palliative use of
1283 [marijuana] cannabis.

1284 (6) Dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers may dispense, sell or
1285 distribute cannabis for palliative use to qualifying out-of-state patients
1286 and qualifying out-of-state caregivers, provided:

1287 (A) A qualifying out-of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state
1288 caregiver who purchases cannabis for palliative use submits to the
1289 dispensary facility or hybrid retailer, at the time of purchase, (i) the valid
1290 qualifying out-of-state credential that was issued to the qualifying out-
1291 of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state caregiver, and (ii) a
1292 registration form, in a form and manner prescribed by the

1293 commissioner, that (I) is signed by the qualifying out-of-state patient or
1294 qualifying out-of-state caregiver, (II) includes the name of the qualifying
1295 out-of-state patient and qualifying out-of-state caregiver, (III) includes
1296 an acknowledgment by the qualifying out-of-state patient or qualifying
1297 out-of-state caregiver that the qualifying out-of-state patient or
1298 qualifying out-of-state caregiver understands the laws and regulations
1299 of this state concerning the palliative use of cannabis by qualifying out-
1300 of-state patients and qualifying out-of-state caregivers, shall be
1301 ineligible to engage in the palliative use of cannabis in this state if the
1302 qualifying out-of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state caregiver
1303 violates any such law or regulation and shall not transport cannabis
1304 across any state or international boundary, and (IV) includes any other
1305 information the commissioner may reasonably require for the purposes
1306 of this chapter or chapter 420h; and

1307 (B) A qualifying out-of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state
1308 caregiver who purchases cannabis for palliative use possesses the valid
1309 qualifying out-of-state credential that was issued to the qualifying out-
1310 of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state caregiver at all times while
1311 such qualifying out-of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state caregiver
1312 is in this state and in possession of cannabis for palliative use; and

1313 (C) A dispensary facility or hybrid retailer submits the registration
1314 form described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision to the
1315 Department of Consumer Protection in a form and manner prescribed
1316 by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

1317 [(e)] (f) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt or
1318 amend regulations, as applicable, to implement the provisions of
1319 subsection [(d)] (e) of this section. Notwithstanding the requirements of
1320 sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of
1321 subsection [(d)] (e) of this section and to protect public health and safety,
1322 prior to adopting such regulations, the commissioner shall issue policies
1323 and procedures to implement the provisions of subsection [(d)] (e) of
1324 this section that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner
1325 shall post all policies and procedures on the Department of Consumer

1326 Protection's Internet web site, and submit such policies and procedures
1327 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
1328 cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection and the Secretary
1329 of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days
1330 prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy
1331 or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either
1332 adoption of such policy or procedure as a final regulation under section
1333 4-172 or July 1, 2028.

1334 Sec. 33. Subsection (b) of section 21a-408i of the general statutes is
1335 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1336 *1, 2026*):

1337 (b) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall determine the
1338 number of producers appropriate to meet the needs of qualifying
1339 patients in this state and shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
1340 chapter 54, to provide for the licensure, standards and locations for
1341 producers in this state and specify the maximum number of producers
1342 that may be licensed in this state at any time. On and after the effective
1343 date of such regulations, the commissioner may license any person who
1344 applies for a license in accordance with such regulations, provided (1)
1345 such person is organized for the purpose of cultivating [marijuana]
1346 cannabis for palliative use in this state, (2) the commissioner finds that
1347 such applicant has appropriate expertise in agriculture and that such
1348 applicant is qualified to cultivate [marijuana] cannabis and sell, deliver,
1349 transport or distribute [marijuana] cannabis solely within this state
1350 pursuant to sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this
1351 act, and (3) the number of producer licenses issued does not exceed the
1352 number appropriate to meet the needs of qualifying patients in this
1353 state, as determined by the commissioner pursuant to this subsection.
1354 At a minimum, such regulations shall:

1355 (A) Indicate the maximum number of producers that may be licensed
1356 in this state at any time, which number shall not be less than three nor
1357 more than ten producers;

1358 (B) Provide that no [marijuana] cannabis may be sold, delivered,
1359 transported or distributed by a producer from or to a location outside of
1360 this state;

1361 (C) Establish a nonrefundable application fee of not less than twenty-
1362 five thousand dollars for each application submitted for a producer
1363 license;

1364 (D) Establish a license fee and renewal fee for each licensed producer,
1365 provided the aggregate amount of such license and renewal fees shall
1366 not be less than the amount necessary to cover the direct and indirect
1367 cost of licensing and regulating producers pursuant to sections 21a-408
1368 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act;

1369 (E) Provide for renewal of such producer licenses at least every five
1370 years;

1371 (F) Provide that no producer may cultivate [marijuana] cannabis for
1372 palliative use outside of this state and designate permissible locations
1373 for licensed producers in this state;

1374 (G) Establish financial requirements for producers, under which (i)
1375 each applicant demonstrates the financial capacity to build and operate
1376 a [marijuana] cannabis production facility, and (ii) each licensed
1377 producer may be required to maintain an escrow account in a financial
1378 institution in this state in an amount of two million dollars;

1379 (H) Establish health, safety and security requirements for licensed
1380 producers, which shall include, but need not be limited to, a
1381 requirement that the applicant or licensed producer demonstrate: (i) The
1382 ability to maintain adequate control against the diversion, theft and loss
1383 of [marijuana] cannabis cultivated by the producer, and (ii) the ability
1384 to cultivate pharmaceutical grade [marijuana] cannabis for palliative
1385 use in a secure indoor facility;

1386 (I) Define "pharmaceutical grade [marijuana] cannabis for palliative
1387 use" for the purposes of this section;

1388 (J) Establish standards and procedures for revocation, suspension,
1389 summary suspension and nonrenewal of producer licenses, provided
1390 such standards and procedures are consistent with the provisions of
1391 subsection (c) of section 4-182; and

1392 (K) Establish other licensing, renewal and operational standards
1393 deemed necessary by the commissioner.

1394 Sec. 34. Section 21a-408j of the general statutes is repealed and the
1395 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1396 (a) No dispensary facility or employee of the dispensary facility may:
1397 (1) Acquire [marijuana] cannabis from a person other than a producer,
1398 [from a] cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer, food and
1399 beverage manufacturer, product packager [,] or transporter, as such
1400 terms are defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act; (2) transfer
1401 or transport [marijuana] cannabis to a person who is not (A) a qualifying
1402 patient registered under section 21a-408d, as amended by this act; (B) a
1403 caregiver of [such] a qualifying patient [; (C)] registered under section
1404 21a-408d, as amended by this act; (C) a qualifying out-of-state patient;
1405 (D) a qualifying out-of-state caregiver of a qualifying out-of-state
1406 patient; (E) a hospice or other inpatient care facility licensed by the
1407 Department of Public Health pursuant to chapter 368v that has a
1408 protocol for the handling and distribution of [marijuana] cannabis that
1409 has been approved by the Department of Consumer Protection; [(D)] (F)
1410 a cannabis testing laboratory; [(E)] (G) an organization engaged in a
1411 research program; [(F)] (H) a delivery service, as defined in section 21a-
1412 420, as amended by this act; or [(G)] (I) a transporter, as defined in
1413 section 21a-420, as amended by this act; or (3) obtain or transport
1414 [marijuana] cannabis outside of this state in violation of state or federal
1415 law.

1416 (b) No dispensary or employee of the dispensary facility acting
1417 within the scope of his or her employment shall be subject to arrest or
1418 prosecution or penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to,
1419 being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege,

1420 including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by
1421 a professional licensing board, for acquiring, possessing, distributing or
1422 dispensing [marijuana] cannabis pursuant to sections 21a-408 to 21a-
1423 408m, inclusive, as amended by this act.

1424 Sec. 35. Section 21a-408k of the general statutes is repealed and the
1425 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1426 (a) No producer or employee of the producer may: (1) Sell, deliver,
1427 transport or distribute [marijuana] cannabis to a person who is not (A)
1428 a cannabis establishment, (B) a cannabis testing laboratory, or (C) an
1429 organization engaged in a research program, or (2) obtain or transport
1430 [marijuana] cannabis outside of this state in violation of state or federal
1431 law.

1432 (b) No licensed producer or employee of the producer acting within
1433 the scope of such employee's employment shall be subject to arrest or
1434 prosecution or penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to,
1435 being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege,
1436 including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by
1437 a professional licensing board, for cultivating [marijuana] cannabis or
1438 selling, delivering, transferring, transporting or distributing [marijuana]
1439 cannabis to a cannabis establishment, cannabis testing laboratory or
1440 research program.

1441 Sec. 36. Section 21a-408l of the general statutes is repealed and the
1442 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1443 (a) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall establish a Board
1444 of Physicians consisting of eight physicians or surgeons who are
1445 knowledgeable about the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis and
1446 certified by the appropriate American board in the medical specialty in
1447 which they practice, at least one of whom shall be a board certified
1448 pediatrician appointed in consultation with the Connecticut Chapter of
1449 the American Academy of Pediatrics. Four of the members of the board
1450 first appointed shall serve for a term of three years and four of the
1451 members of the board first appointed shall serve for a term of four years.

1452 Thereafter, members of the board shall serve for a term of four years and
1453 shall be eligible for reappointment. Any member of the board may serve
1454 until a successor is appointed. The Commissioner of Consumer
1455 Protection shall serve as an ex-officio member of the board, and shall
1456 select a chairperson from among the members of the board.

1457 (b) A quorum of the Board of Physicians shall consist of four
1458 members.

1459 (c) The Board of Physicians shall:

1460 (1) Review and recommend to the Department of Consumer
1461 Protection for approval the debilitating medical conditions, medical
1462 treatments or diseases to be added to the list of debilitating medical
1463 conditions that qualify for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis for
1464 qualifying patients eighteen years of age or older;

1465 (2) Review and recommend to the Department of Consumer
1466 Protection for approval any illnesses that are severely debilitating, as
1467 defined in 21 CFR 312.81(b), to be added to the list of debilitating
1468 medical conditions that qualify for the palliative use of [marijuana]
1469 cannabis for qualifying patients under eighteen years of age, taking into
1470 account, among other things, the effect of the palliative use of
1471 [marijuana] cannabis on the brain development of such patients, which
1472 recommendations shall be accepted or rejected by the commissioner in
1473 [his or her] the commissioner's discretion;

1474 (3) Accept and review petitions to add medical conditions, medical
1475 treatments or diseases to the list of debilitating medical conditions that
1476 qualify for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis;

1477 (4) Convene as necessary to conduct public hearings and to evaluate
1478 petitions, which shall be maintained as confidential pursuant to
1479 subsection (e) of this section, for the purpose of adding medical
1480 conditions, medical treatments or diseases to the list of debilitating
1481 medical conditions that qualify for the palliative use of [marijuana]
1482 cannabis;

1483 (5) Review and recommend to the Department of Consumer
1484 Protection protocols for determining the amounts of [marijuana]
1485 cannabis that may be reasonably necessary to ensure uninterrupted
1486 availability for a period of one month for qualifying patients, including
1487 amounts for topical treatments; and

1488 (6) Perform other duties related to the palliative use of [marijuana]
1489 cannabis upon the request of the Commissioner of Consumer
1490 Protection.

1491 (d) The Board of Physicians may review the list of debilitating
1492 medical conditions that qualify for the palliative use of [marijuana]
1493 cannabis and make recommendations to the joint standing committees
1494 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
1495 [general law] consumer protection and public health for the removal of
1496 a debilitating medical condition, medical treatment or disease from such
1497 list.

1498 (e) Any individually identifiable health information contained in a
1499 petition received under this section shall be confidential and shall not
1500 be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as
1501 defined in section 1-200.

1502 (f) [On and after October 1, 2021, conditions] Conditions added
1503 pursuant to this section to the list of debilitating medical conditions that
1504 qualify for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis shall be posted by
1505 the commissioner on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet
1506 web site. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172,
1507 inclusive, the list of debilitating medical conditions that qualify for the
1508 palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis shall be deemed approved and
1509 effective without further action as of the date such conditions are posted
1510 on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site.

1511 Sec. 37. Section 21a-408m of the general statutes is repealed and the
1512 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1513 (a) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt

1514 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to establish (1) a standard
1515 form for written certifications for the palliative use of [marijuana]
1516 cannabis issued by physicians, physician assistants and advanced
1517 practice registered nurses under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of
1518 section 21a-408a, as amended by this act, and (2) procedures for
1519 registrations under section 21a-408d, as amended by this act. Such
1520 regulations, if any, shall be adopted after consultation with the Board of
1521 Physicians established in section 21a-408l, as amended by this act.

1522 (b) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt or amend
1523 regulations, as applicable, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement
1524 the provisions of sections 21a-408 to 21a-408g, inclusive, as amended by
1525 this act, and section 21a-408l, as amended by this act. Notwithstanding
1526 the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to
1527 effectuate the purposes of sections 21a-408 to 21a-408g, inclusive, as
1528 amended by this act, and section 21a-408l, as amended by this act, and
1529 protect public health and safety, prior to adopting or amending such
1530 regulations the commissioner shall adopt policies and procedures to
1531 implement the provisions of sections 21a-408 to 21a-408g, inclusive, as
1532 amended by this act, and section [21a-408] 21a-408l, as amended by this
1533 act, that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall
1534 post all policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site,
1535 and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for
1536 posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the
1537 effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure
1538 shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either adoption of such
1539 policies or procedures as a final regulation pursuant to section 4-172 or
1540 forty-eight months from October 1, 2021, if such policies or procedures
1541 have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee
1542 for consideration under section 4-170. Such policies and procedures and
1543 regulations shall include, but not be limited to, how the department
1544 shall:

1545 (1) Accept applications for the issuance and renewal of registration
1546 certificates for qualifying patients and caregivers;

1547 (2) Establish criteria for adding medical conditions, medical
1548 treatments or diseases to the list of debilitating medical conditions that
1549 qualify for the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis;

1550 (3) Establish a petition process under which members of the public
1551 may submit petitions [,] regarding the addition of medical conditions,
1552 medical treatments or diseases to the list of debilitating medical
1553 conditions;

1554 (4) Establish requirements for the growing of cannabis plants by a
1555 qualifying patient in his or her primary residence as authorized under
1556 section 21a-408d, as amended by this act, including requirements for
1557 securing such plants to prevent access by any individual other than the
1558 patient or the patient's caregiver, the location of such plants and any
1559 other requirements necessary to protect public health or safety;

1560 (5) Develop a distribution system for [marijuana] cannabis for
1561 palliative use that provides for:

1562 (A) [Marijuana] Cannabis production facilities within this state that
1563 are housed on secured grounds and operated by producers;

1564 (B) The transfer of [marijuana] cannabis between dispensary
1565 facilities; and

1566 (C) Distribution of [marijuana] cannabis for palliative use to
1567 qualifying patients or their caregivers by dispensary facilities, hybrid
1568 retailers and delivery services, as such terms are defined in section 21a-
1569 420, as amended by this act; and

1570 (6) Ensure an adequate supply and variety of [marijuana] cannabis to
1571 dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers to ensure uninterrupted
1572 availability for qualifying patients, based on historical [marijuana]
1573 cannabis purchase patterns by qualifying patients.

1574 Sec. 38. Section 21a-408o of the general statutes is repealed and the
1575 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1576 Nothing in sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by
1577 this act, or section 21a-243, as amended by this act, shall be construed to
1578 require health insurance coverage for the palliative use of [marijuana]
1579 cannabis.

1580 Sec. 39. Section 21a-408p of the general statutes is repealed and the
1581 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1582 (a) For the purposes of this section:

1583 (1) "Action" has the meaning provided in section 47a-1;

1584 (2) "Dwelling unit" has the meaning provided in section 47a-1;

1585 (3) "Employer" means a person engaged in business who has one or
1586 more employees, including the state and any political subdivision of the
1587 state;

1588 (4) "Landlord" has the meaning provided in section 47a-1;

1589 (5) "Palliative use" has the meaning provided in section 21a-408, as
1590 amended by this act;

1591 (6) "Caregiver" has the meaning provided in section 21a-408, as
1592 amended by this act;

1593 (7) "Qualifying out-of-state caregiver" has the meaning provided in
1594 section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

1595 (8) "Qualifying out-of-state patient" has the meaning provided in
1596 section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

1597 ~~[(7)]~~ (9) "Qualifying patient" has the meaning provided in section 21a-
1598 408, as amended by this act;

1599 ~~[(8)]~~ (10) "School" means a public or private elementary or secondary
1600 school in this state or a public or private institution of higher education
1601 in this state; and

1602 [(9)] (11) "Tenant" has the meaning provided in section 47a-1.

1603 (b) Unless required by federal law or required to obtain federal
1604 funding:

1605 (1) No school may refuse to enroll any person or discriminate against
1606 any student solely on the basis of such person's or student's status as a
1607 qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or
1608 qualifying out-of-state caregiver under sections 21a-408 to 21a-408m,
1609 inclusive, as amended by this act;

1610 (2) No landlord may refuse to rent a dwelling unit to a person or take
1611 action against a tenant solely on the basis of such person's or tenant's
1612 status as a qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state patient,
1613 caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver under sections 21a-408 to
1614 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act; and

1615 (3) No employer may refuse to hire a person or may discharge,
1616 penalize or threaten an employee solely on the basis of such person's or
1617 employee's status as a qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state
1618 patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver under sections
1619 21a-408 to 21a-408m, inclusive, as amended by this act. Nothing in this
1620 subdivision shall restrict an employer's ability to prohibit the use of
1621 intoxicating substances during work hours or restrict an employer's
1622 ability to discipline an employee for being under the influence of
1623 intoxicating substances during work hours.

1624 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the palliative
1625 use of [marijuana] cannabis in violation of subsection (b) or (c) of section
1626 21a-408a, as amended by this act.

1627 Sec. 40. Subsection (d) of section 21a-408r of the general statutes is
1628 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1629 *1, 2026*):

1630 (d) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt
1631 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to (1) provide for the

1632 licensure or registration of cannabis testing laboratories and cannabis
1633 testing laboratory employees, (2) establish standards and procedures for
1634 the revocation, suspension, summary suspension and nonrenewal of
1635 cannabis testing laboratory licenses and cannabis testing laboratory
1636 employee registrations, provided such standards and procedures are
1637 consistent with the provisions of subsection (c) of section 4-182, (3)
1638 establish a registration renewal fee for each registered cannabis testing
1639 laboratory employee, provided the aggregate amount of such fees shall
1640 not be less than the amount necessary to cover the direct and indirect
1641 cost of registering and regulating cannabis testing laboratory employees
1642 in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, (4) establish
1643 procedures by which cannabis testing laboratories shall accept
1644 [marijuana] cannabis samples from caregivers, qualifying patients and
1645 consumers for testing, and (5) establish other licensing, registration,
1646 renewal and operational standards deemed necessary by the
1647 commissioner. For the purposes of this subsection, "consumer" has the
1648 same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act.

1649 Sec. 41. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 21a-408s of the
1650 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1651 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1652 (a) No cannabis testing laboratory or cannabis testing laboratory
1653 employee may (1) acquire [marijuana] cannabis from a person other
1654 than (A) a cannabis establishment or an organization engaged in a
1655 research program, or (B) a caregiver, a qualifying patient or a consumer,
1656 as defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act, providing a
1657 [marijuana] cannabis sample under regulations adopted by the
1658 Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to subsection (d) of
1659 section 21a-408r, as amended by this act, (2) deliver, transport or
1660 distribute [marijuana] cannabis to (A) a person who is not a cannabis
1661 establishment from which the [marijuana] cannabis was originally
1662 acquired by the cannabis testing laboratory or cannabis testing
1663 laboratory employee, or (B) an organization not engaged in a research
1664 program, or (3) obtain or transport [marijuana] cannabis outside of this
1665 state in violation of state or federal law.

1666 (b) (1) No cannabis testing laboratory employee acting within the
1667 scope of such cannabis testing laboratory employee's employment shall
1668 be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any manner, including,
1669 but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right
1670 or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any
1671 disciplinary action by a professional licensing board, for acquiring,
1672 possessing, delivering, transporting or distributing [marijuana]
1673 cannabis to a cannabis establishment or an organization engaged in an
1674 approved research program under the provisions of this chapter.

1675 (2) No cannabis testing laboratory shall be subject to prosecution,
1676 penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to
1677 any civil penalty or denied any right or privilege, for acquiring,
1678 possessing, delivering, transporting or distributing [marijuana]
1679 cannabis to a cannabis establishment or an organization engaged in an
1680 approved research program under the provisions of this chapter.

1681 (c) A cannabis testing laboratory shall be independent from all other
1682 persons involved in the [marijuana] cannabis industry in Connecticut,
1683 which shall mean that no person with a direct or indirect financial,
1684 managerial or controlling interest in the cannabis testing laboratory
1685 shall have a direct or indirect financial, managerial or controlling
1686 interest in a cannabis establishment or any other entity that may benefit
1687 from the laboratory test results for a cannabis [or marijuana] sample or
1688 product.

1689 Sec. 42. Section 21a-408u of the general statutes is repealed and the
1690 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1691 (a) No research program or research program employee may (1)
1692 acquire [marijuana] cannabis from a person other than a cannabis
1693 establishment or cannabis testing laboratory, (2) deliver, transport or
1694 distribute [marijuana] cannabis to a person who is not (A) a cannabis
1695 establishment, (B) a cannabis testing laboratory, or (C) a research
1696 program subject, (3) distribute or administer [marijuana] cannabis to an
1697 animal unless such animal is an animal research subject, or (4) obtain or

1698 transport [marijuana] cannabis outside of this state in violation of state
1699 or federal law.

1700 (b) No research program employee acting within the scope of such
1701 research program employee's employment shall be subject to arrest or
1702 prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to,
1703 being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege,
1704 including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by
1705 a professional licensing board, for acquiring, possessing, delivering,
1706 transporting or distributing [marijuana] cannabis to a cannabis
1707 establishment or cannabis testing laboratory, or a research program
1708 subject or distributing or administering [marijuana] cannabis to an
1709 animal research subject under the provisions of this chapter.

1710 Sec. 43. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 21a-408v of the general
1711 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1712 (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1713 (b) A research program subject who has a valid registration certificate
1714 from the Department of Consumer Protection and is acting within the
1715 scope of [his or her] the research program subject's involvement in an
1716 approved research program shall not be subject to arrest or prosecution,
1717 penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to
1718 any civil penalty or denied any right or privilege, including, but not
1719 limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by a professional
1720 licensing board, for the use of [marijuana] cannabis.

1721 (c) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section do not apply to:

1722 (1) Any use of [marijuana] cannabis that endangers the health or well-
1723 being of a person other than the research program subject or a research
1724 program employee; or

1725 (2) The ingestion of [marijuana] cannabis (A) in a motor bus or a
1726 school bus or in any other moving vehicle, (B) in the workplace, (C) on
1727 any school grounds or any public or private school, dormitory, college
1728 or university property unless such college or university is participating

1729 in a research program and such use is pursuant to the terms of the
1730 research program, (D) in any public place, or (E) in the presence of a
1731 person under eighteen years of age unless such person is a qualifying
1732 patient or research program subject. For purposes of this subdivision, (i)
1733 "presence" means within the direct line of sight of the palliative use of
1734 [marijuana] cannabis or exposure to second-hand [marijuana] cannabis
1735 smoke, or both; (ii) "public place" means any area that is used or held
1736 out for use by the public, whether owned or operated by public or
1737 private interests; (iii) "vehicle" means a vehicle, as defined in section 14-
1738 1; (iv) "motor bus" means a motor bus, as defined in section 14-1; and (v)
1739 "school bus" means a school bus, as defined in section 14-1.

1740 Sec. 44. Section 21a-408w of the general statutes is repealed and the
1741 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1742 (a) (1) Each cannabis establishment shall submit [marijuana] cannabis
1743 samples to a cannabis testing laboratory for testing [as set forth in
1744 subsection (b) of this section] in accordance with the laboratory testing
1745 standards established in the regulations adopted by the Commissioner
1746 of Consumer Protection pursuant to section 21a-421j, as amended by
1747 this act. The quantity and number of cannabis samples submitted shall
1748 be sufficient to ensure representative sampling of the corresponding
1749 cannabis batch size.

1750 [(b) (1) A cannabis testing laboratory shall test each marijuana sample
1751 submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section (A) for
1752 microbiological contaminants, mycotoxins, heavy metals and pesticide
1753 chemical residue, and (B) for purposes of conducting an active
1754 ingredient analysis, if applicable.

1755 (2) Microbiological contaminant testing conducted pursuant to
1756 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall include, but
1757 not be limited to, microbiological contaminant testing for *Aspergillus*
1758 species as set forth by the Department of Consumer Protection and
1759 posted on the department's Internet web site.

1760 (c) When conducting microbiological testing as set forth in subsection

1761 (b) of this section, the marijuana sample shall be tested by using (1) a
1762 molecular method that (A) includes quantitative polymerase chain
1763 reaction, (B) is certified for identifying microbiological DNA, and (C) is
1764 approved by (i) the Association of Official Analytical Collaboration
1765 International, or (ii) a comparable national or international standards
1766 organization designated by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection,
1767 or (2) an alternative testing method approved by the Department of
1768 Consumer Protection and posted on the department's Internet web site.

1769 (d) If a marijuana sample does not pass the testing set forth in
1770 subsection (b) of this section, the cannabis establishment that submitted
1771 such failing marijuana sample to the cannabis testing laboratory shall:

1772 (1) Repeat testing as set forth in subsections (a) and (b) of this section
1773 on the marijuana batch from which such marijuana sample was taken,
1774 in a form and manner approved by the Department of Consumer
1775 Protection. If all repeated testing yields satisfactory results, the
1776 marijuana batch from which the marijuana samples were taken shall be
1777 released for sale;

1778 (2) If such cannabis establishment submits to the Commissioner of
1779 Consumer Protection a remediation plan that is sufficient to ensure
1780 public health and safety, and the commissioner approves such
1781 remediation plan, remediate the marijuana batch from which such
1782 marijuana sample was taken and repeat all testing as set forth in
1783 subsections (a) and (b) of this section on such remediated marijuana
1784 batch, in a form and manner approved by the Department of Consumer
1785 Protection. If all repeated testing yields satisfactory results, the
1786 marijuana batch from which the marijuana samples were taken shall be
1787 released for sale; or

1788 (3) If such cannabis establishment does not comply with subdivision
1789 (1) or (2) of this subsection, or if any subsequent laboratory testing does
1790 not yield satisfactory results for the testing set forth in subsections (a)
1791 and (b) of this section, dispose of the entire marijuana batch from which
1792 the marijuana sample was taken in accordance with procedures

1793 established by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, as published
1794 on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site.

1795 (e) For purposes of the testing set forth in subsections (a) and (b) of
1796 this section, the quantity and number of marijuana samples taken shall
1797 be sufficient to ensure representative sampling of the corresponding
1798 marijuana batch size.]

1799 (2) If the cannabis samples taken from a cannabis batch pass the
1800 laboratory testing required under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the
1801 cannabis batch shall be released for sale.

1802 (3) If the cannabis samples taken from a cannabis batch fail the
1803 laboratory testing required under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the
1804 cannabis establishment that submitted the failing cannabis samples to
1805 the cannabis testing laboratory shall, not later than sixty days after the
1806 date of such failed laboratory testing:

1807 (A) Repeat the laboratory testing required under subdivision (1) of
1808 this subsection on the cannabis batch in a form and manner approved
1809 by the commissioner;

1810 (B) Submit to the Department of Consumer Protection a remediation
1811 plan for the cannabis batch, in accordance with the provisions of
1812 subsection (c) of this section; or

1813 (C) Dispose of the entire cannabis batch in accordance with
1814 procedures established by the commissioner and published on the
1815 department's Internet web site, unless the cannabis establishment
1816 submits to the department during such sixty-day period, and the
1817 commissioner approves, a request to extend the disposal period by sixty
1818 days. The commissioner shall not grant more than two such requests for
1819 any cannabis batch.

1820 (b) Not later than sixty days after any repeated laboratory testing
1821 performed pursuant to subparagraph (A) of subdivision (3) of
1822 subsection (a) of this section:

1823 (1) If the cannabis samples pass such repeated laboratory testing, the
1824 cannabis batch from which such cannabis samples were taken shall be
1825 released for sale; or

1826 (2) If the cannabis samples fail such repeated laboratory testing, the
1827 cannabis establishment that submitted such failing cannabis samples
1828 shall:

1829 (A) Submit to the Department of Consumer Protection a remediation
1830 plan for the cannabis batch from which such failing cannabis samples
1831 were taken, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this
1832 section; or

1833 (B) Dispose of the entire cannabis batch from which such failing
1834 cannabis samples were taken in accordance with procedures established
1835 by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection and published on the
1836 department's Internet web site, unless the cannabis establishment
1837 submits to the department during such sixty-day period, and the
1838 commissioner approves, a request to extend the disposal period by sixty
1839 days. The commissioner shall not grant more than two such requests for
1840 any cannabis batch.

1841 (c) (1) Each remediation plan submitted to the Department of
1842 Consumer Protection under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (3) of
1843 subsection (a) of this section or subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of
1844 subsection (b) of this section shall be submitted in a form and manner
1845 prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

1846 (2) Not later than sixty days after the commissioner receives a
1847 remediation plan described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the
1848 commissioner shall:

1849 (A) Review the remediation plan to determine whether such
1850 remediation plan is sufficient to ensure public health and safety;

1851 (B) On the basis of such determination, approve or reject such
1852 remediation plan; and

1853 (C) Send to the cannabis establishment that submitted such
1854 remediation plan, in a form and manner prescribed by the
1855 commissioner, a written notice disclosing such approval or rejection
1856 and, in the case of a rejection, the reasons for such rejection.

1857 (3) If the commissioner does not send a written notice to the cannabis
1858 establishment pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of this
1859 subsection within the sixty-day period required under subdivision (2)
1860 of this subsection, such cannabis establishment's remediation plan shall
1861 be deemed approved.

1862 (4) If the commissioner approves the remediation plan under
1863 subdivision (2) of this subsection, or if such remediation plan is deemed
1864 approved under subdivision (3) of this subsection, the cannabis
1865 establishment shall remediate the cannabis batch from which the failing
1866 cannabis samples were taken and repeat all laboratory testing required
1867 under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section in a form and
1868 manner approved by the commissioner; and:

1869 (A) If the cannabis samples pass such repeated laboratory testing,
1870 such cannabis batch shall be released for sale; or

1871 (B) If the cannabis samples fail such repeated laboratory testing, the
1872 cannabis establishment that submitted such failing cannabis samples for
1873 such repeated laboratory testing shall, not later than sixty days after the
1874 date of such failed repeated laboratory testing, dispose of such cannabis
1875 batch in accordance with procedures established by the commissioner
1876 and published on the department's Internet web site, unless the
1877 cannabis establishment submits to the department during such sixty-
1878 day period, and the commissioner approves, a request to extend the
1879 disposal period by an additional sixty days. The commissioner shall not
1880 grant more than two such requests for any cannabis batch.

1881 Sec. 45. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 21a-409 of the general
1882 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1883 (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1884 (b) Hemp or manufacturer hemp products purchased by producers
1885 from third parties shall be tracked as a separate batch throughout the
1886 manufacturing process in order to document the disposition of such
1887 hemp or manufacturer hemp products. Hemp or manufacturer hemp
1888 products obtained, manufactured, marketed, cultivated or stored by a
1889 producer shall be deemed [marijuana] cannabis and shall comply with
1890 the requirements for [marijuana] cannabis contained in the applicable
1891 provisions of the general statutes and any regulations adopted pursuant
1892 to such provisions. Producers shall retain a copy of the certificate of
1893 analysis for purchased hemp or manufacturer hemp products and
1894 invoice and transport documents that evidence the quantity purchased
1895 and date received.

1896 (c) (1) No hemp or producer hemp products shall be sold or
1897 distributed within a dispensary facility that is licensed pursuant to this
1898 chapter.

1899 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, manufacturer
1900 hemp products may be sold within a dispensary facility that is licensed
1901 pursuant to this chapter, provided such manufacturer hemp products
1902 are:

1903 (A) Stored separately from [marijuana] cannabis;

1904 (B) Separated, by a physical separation, from [marijuana] cannabis in
1905 any display area;

1906 (C) Displayed with signage approved by the department;

1907 (D) Tested by a laboratory that meets the standards for accreditation
1908 and testing, and sampling methods, set forth for an independent testing
1909 laboratory in section 22-61m, as amended by this act, which laboratory
1910 may be located outside of this state;

1911 (E) Clearly labeled to distinguish the product as (i) a manufacturer
1912 hemp product, (ii) subject to different testing standards than cannabis,
1913 [or marijuana,] and (iii) not cannabis; [or marijuana,] and

1914 (F) Sold in accordance with this chapter, chapter 424 and any
1915 regulations adopted pursuant to said chapters.

1916 Sec. 46. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 21a-410 of the general
1917 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1918 (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1919 (a) For purposes of this section:

1920 (1) "Material change" means: (A) The addition of a dispensary facility
1921 backer or producer backer, (B) a change in the ownership interest of an
1922 existing dispensary facility backer or producer backer, (C) the merger,
1923 consolidation or other affiliation of a medical [marijuana] cannabis
1924 business with another person, (D) the acquisition of all or part of a
1925 medical [marijuana] cannabis business by another person, and (E) the
1926 transfer of assets or security interests from a medical [marijuana]
1927 cannabis business to another person;

1928 (2) ["Medical marijuana business"] "Medical cannabis business"
1929 means a medical [marijuana] cannabis dispensary facility or production
1930 facility, licensed pursuant to this chapter and the regulations adopted
1931 under this chapter;

1932 (3) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, corporation,
1933 company, association, trust or other business or tribal entity; and

1934 (4) "Transfer" means to sell, transfer, lease, exchange, option, convey,
1935 give or otherwise dispose of or transfer control over, including, but not
1936 limited to, transfer by way of merger or joint venture not in the ordinary
1937 course of business.

1938 (b) No person shall, directly or indirectly, enter into a transaction that
1939 results in a material change to a medical [marijuana] cannabis business,
1940 unless all persons involved in the transaction file a written notification
1941 with the Attorney General pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and
1942 the waiting period described in subsection (d) of this section has
1943 expired.

1944 Sec. 47. Section 21a-420 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
1945 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1946 *October 1, 2026*):

1947 As used in RERACA, unless the context otherwise requires:

1948 (1) "Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis
1949 Act" or "RERACA" means this section, sections 2-56j, 7-294kk, 7-294ll,
1950 12-330ll to 12-330nn, inclusive, as amended by this act, 14-227p, 21a-
1951 278b, 21a-278c, 21a-279c, 21a-279d, 21a-408w, as amended by this act,
1952 21a-420a to 21a-420j, inclusive, as amended by this act, 21a-420l to 21a-
1953 421u, inclusive, as amended by this act, 21a-421aa to 21a-421ff, inclusive,
1954 as amended by this act, 21a-421aaa to 21a-421iii, inclusive, 21a-422 to
1955 21a-422c, inclusive, 21a-422e to 21a-422g, inclusive, as amended by this
1956 act, 21a-422j to 21a-422s, inclusive, 21a-422u, 22-61n, as amended by this
1957 act, 23-4b, 47a-9a, 53-247a, as amended by this act, 53a-213a, as amended
1958 by this act, 53a-213b, as amended by this act, 54-33p, 54-56q, 54-56r, 54-
1959 125k and 54-142u, sections 23, 60, 63 to 65, inclusive, 124, 144 and 165 of
1960 public act 21-1, as amended by this act, of the June special session, and
1961 the amendments in public act 21-1, as amended by this act, of the June
1962 special session to sections 7-148, as amended by this act, 10-221, 12-30a,
1963 12-35b, 12-412, as amended by this act, 12-650, as amended by this act,
1964 12-704d, as amended by this act, 14-44k, 14-111e, 14-227a to 14-227c,
1965 inclusive, as amended by this act, 14-227j, 15-140q, 15-140r, as amended
1966 by this act, 18-100h, 19a-342, as amended by this act, 19a-342a, as
1967 amended by this act, 21a-267, 21a-277, as amended by this act, 21a-279,
1968 as amended by this act, 21a-279a, as amended by this act, 21a-408 to 21a-
1969 408f, inclusive, as amended by this act, 21a-408h to 21a-408p, inclusive,
1970 as amended by this act, 21a-408r to 21a-408v, inclusive, as amended by
1971 this act, 30-89a, 31-40q, as amended by this act, 32-39, 46b-120, 51-164n,
1972 53-394, 53a-39c, 54-1m, 54-33g, 54-41b, 54-56e, 54-56g, 54-56i, 54-56k, 54-
1973 56n, 54-63d, 54-66a and 54-142e, [and] section 22 of public act 25-101 and
1974 sections 48 to 52, inclusive, of this act;

1975 (2) "Backer" means any individual with a direct or indirect financial
1976 interest in a cannabis establishment. "Backer" does not include (A) a

1977 bank, bank and trust company, bank holding company, Connecticut
1978 bank, Connecticut credit union, federal bank, federal branch, federal
1979 credit union, financial institution, foreign bank, holding company, out-
1980 of-state bank, out-of-state credit union, out-of-state trust company,
1981 savings and loan association, savings bank or savings and loan holding
1982 company, as such terms are defined in section 36a-2, or a wholly-owned
1983 subsidiary thereof, that provides nonequity financing to a cannabis
1984 establishment and does not directly participate in the control,
1985 management or operation of the cannabis establishment, or (B) an
1986 individual with an investment interest in a cannabis establishment if (i)
1987 the interest held by such individual and such individual's spouse,
1988 parent or child, in the aggregate, does not exceed five per cent of the
1989 total ownership or interest rights in such cannabis establishment, and
1990 (ii) such individual does not participate directly or indirectly in the
1991 control, management or operation of the cannabis establishment;

1992 (3) "Cannabis" [means marijuana, as defined] has the same meaning
1993 as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act;

1994 (4) "Cannabis establishment" means a producer, dispensary facility,
1995 cultivator, micro-cultivator, retailer, hybrid retailer, food and beverage
1996 manufacturer, product manufacturer, product packager, delivery
1997 service or transporter;

1998 (5) "Cannabis flower" means the flower, including abnormal and
1999 immature flowers, of a plant of the genus cannabis that has been
2000 harvested, dried, cured, chopped or ground, and prior to any processing
2001 whereby the flower material is transformed into a cannabis product.
2002 "Cannabis flower" does not include (A) the leaves or stem of such plant,
2003 or (B) hemp, as defined in section 22-61l, as amended by this act;

2004 (6) "Cannabis testing laboratory" means a laboratory that (A) is
2005 located in this state, (B) is licensed by the department to analyze
2006 cannabis, and (C) meets the licensure requirements established in
2007 section 21a-408r, as amended by this act, and the regulations adopted
2008 pursuant to subsection (d) of section 21a-408r, as amended by this act;

2009 (7) "Cannabis testing laboratory employee" means an individual who
2010 is (A) employed at a cannabis testing laboratory, and (B) registered
2011 pursuant to section 21a-408r, as amended by this act, and the regulations
2012 adopted pursuant to subsection (d) of section 21a-408r, as amended by
2013 this act;

2014 (8) "Cannabis trim" means all parts, including abnormal or immature
2015 parts, of a plant of the genus cannabis, other than cannabis flower, that
2016 have been harvested, dried and cured, and prior to any processing,
2017 excluding chopping or grinding, whereby the plant material is
2018 transformed into a cannabis product. "Cannabis trim" does not include
2019 hemp, as defined in section 22-61l, as amended by this act;

2020 (9) "Cannabis product" means cannabis, intended for use or
2021 consumption, that is in the form of (A) a cannabis concentrate, or (B) a
2022 product that contains cannabis and at least one other cannabis or
2023 noncannabis ingredient or component, excluding cannabis flower;

2024 (10) "Cannabis concentrate" means any form of concentration,
2025 including, but not limited to, extracts, oils, tinctures, [shatter] shatters
2026 and waxes, that is extracted from cannabis;

2027 (11) "Cannabis-type substances" [have] has the same meaning as
2028 ["marijuana"] cannabis, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended by
2029 this act;

2030 (12) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer
2031 Protection and includes any designee of the commissioner;

2032 (13) "Consumer" means an individual who is twenty-one years of age
2033 or older;

2034 (14) "Control" means the power to direct, or cause the direction of, the
2035 management and policies of a cannabis establishment, regardless of
2036 whether such power is possessed directly or indirectly;

2037 (15) "Cultivation" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-
2038 408, as amended by this act;

2039 (16) "Cultivator" means a person that is licensed to engage in the
2040 cultivation, growing and propagation of the cannabis plant at an
2041 establishment with not less than fifteen thousand square feet of grow
2042 space;

2043 (17) "Delivery service" means a person that is licensed to deliver
2044 cannabis from (A) micro-cultivators, retailers and hybrid retailers to
2045 consumers and research program subjects, and (B) hybrid retailers and
2046 dispensary facilities to qualifying patients, caregivers and research
2047 program subjects, as defined in section 21a-408, as amended by this act,
2048 or to hospices or other inpatient care facilities licensed by the
2049 Department of Public Health pursuant to chapter 368v that have a
2050 protocol for the handling and distribution of cannabis that has been
2051 approved by the department, or a combination thereof;

2052 (18) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection;

2053 (19) "Dispensary facility" means a place of business, for which the
2054 department has issued a dispensary facility license pursuant to chapter
2055 420f, where cannabis may be dispensed, sold or distributed in
2056 accordance with chapter 420f and any regulations adopted pursuant to
2057 said chapter, to qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state
2058 patients, caregivers [, and to which the department has issued a
2059 dispensary facility license pursuant to chapter 420f and any regulations
2060 adopted pursuant to said chapter] and qualifying out-of-state
2061 caregivers;

2062 (20) "Disproportionately impacted area" means (A) for the period
2063 beginning July 1, 2021, and ending July 31, 2023, a United States census
2064 tract in the state that has, as determined by the Social Equity Council
2065 under subdivision (1) of subsection (i) of section 21a-420d, as amended
2066 by this act, (i) a historical conviction rate for drug-related offenses
2067 greater than one-tenth, or (ii) an unemployment rate greater than ten
2068 per cent, and (B) on and after August 1, 2023, a United States census tract
2069 in this state that has been identified by the Social Equity Council
2070 pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (i) of section 21a-420d, as

2071 amended by this act;

2072 (21) "Disqualifying conviction" means a conviction within the last ten
2073 years which has not been the subject of an absolute pardon under the
2074 provisions of section 54-130a, or an equivalent pardon process under the
2075 laws of another state or the federal government, for an offense under (A)
2076 section 53a-276, 53a-277 or 53a-278, (B) section 53a-291, 53a-292 or 53a-
2077 293, (C) section 53a-215, (D) section 53a-138 or 53a-139, (E) section 53a-
2078 142a, (F) sections 53a-147 to 53a-162, inclusive, (G) sections 53a-125c to
2079 53a-125f, inclusive, (H) section 53a-129b, 53a-129c or 53a-129d, (I)
2080 subsection (b) of section 12-737, (J) section 53a-48 or 53a-49, if the offense
2081 which is attempted or is an object of the conspiracy is an offense under
2082 the statutes listed in subparagraphs (A) to (I), inclusive, of this
2083 subdivision, or (K) the law of any other state or of the federal
2084 government, if the offense on which such conviction is based is defined
2085 by elements that substantially include the elements of an offense under
2086 the statutes listed in subparagraphs (A) to (J), inclusive, of this
2087 subdivision;

2088 (22) "Dispensary technician" means an individual who has had an
2089 active pharmacy technician or dispensary technician registration in this
2090 state within the past five years, is affiliated with a dispensary facility or
2091 hybrid retailer and is registered with the department in accordance with
2092 chapter 420f and any regulations adopted pursuant to said chapter;

2093 (23) "Edible cannabis product" means a cannabis product intended
2094 for humans to eat or drink;

2095 (24) "Employee" means any person who is not a backer, but is a
2096 member of the board of a company with an ownership interest in a
2097 cannabis establishment, and any person employed by a cannabis
2098 establishment or who otherwise has access to such establishment or the
2099 vehicles used to transport cannabis, including, but not limited to, an
2100 independent contractor who has routine access to the premises of such
2101 establishment or to the cannabis handled by such establishment;

2102 (25) "Equity" and "equitable" means efforts, regulations, policies,

2103 programs, standards, processes and any other functions of government
2104 or principles of law and governance intended to (A) identify and
2105 remedy past and present patterns of discrimination and disparities of
2106 race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation, (B) ensure that such
2107 patterns of discrimination and disparities, whether intentional or
2108 unintentional, are neither reinforced nor perpetuated, and (C) prevent
2109 the emergence and persistence of foreseeable future patterns of
2110 discrimination or disparities of race, ethnicity, gender and sexual
2111 orientation;

2112 (26) "Equity joint venture" means a business entity that is controlled,
2113 and at least fifty per cent owned, by an individual or individuals, or such
2114 applicant is an individual, who meets the criteria of subparagraphs (A)
2115 and (B) of subdivision [(51)] (54) of this section;

2116 (27) "Extract" means the preparation, compounding, conversion or
2117 processing of cannabis, either directly or indirectly by extraction or
2118 independently by means of chemical synthesis, or by a combination of
2119 extraction and chemical synthesis to produce a cannabis concentrate;

2120 (28) "Financial interest" means any right to, ownership, an investment
2121 or a compensation arrangement with another person, directly, through
2122 business, investment or family. "Financial interest" does not include
2123 ownership of investment securities in a publicly-held corporation that
2124 is traded on a national exchange or over-the-counter market, provided
2125 the investment securities held by such person and such person's spouse,
2126 parent or child, in the aggregate, do not exceed one-half of one per cent
2127 of the total number of shares issued by the corporation;

2128 (29) "Food and beverage manufacturer" means a person that is
2129 licensed to own and operate a place of business that acquires cannabis
2130 and creates food and beverages;

2131 (30) "Grow space" means the portion of a premises owned and
2132 controlled by a producer, cultivator or micro-cultivator that is utilized
2133 for the cultivation, growing or propagation of the cannabis plant, and
2134 contains cannabis plants in an active stage of growth, measured starting

2135 from the outermost wall of the room containing cannabis plants and
2136 continuing around the outside of the room. "Grow space" does not
2137 include space used to cure, process, store harvested cannabis or
2138 manufacture cannabis once the cannabis has been harvested;

2139 (31) "Historical conviction count for drug-related offenses" means, for
2140 a given area, the number of convictions of residents of such area (A) for
2141 violations of sections 21a-267, 21a-277, as amended by this act, 21a-278,
2142 21a-279, as amended by this act, and 21a-279a, as amended by this act,
2143 and (B) who were arrested for such violations between January 1, 1982,
2144 and December 31, 2020, inclusive, where such arrest was recorded in
2145 databases maintained by the Department of Emergency Services and
2146 Public Protection;

2147 (32) "Historical conviction rate for drug-related offenses" means, for
2148 a given area, the historical conviction count for drug-related offenses
2149 divided by the population of such area, as determined by the five-year
2150 estimates of the most recent American Community Survey conducted
2151 by the United States Census Bureau;

2152 (33) "Hybrid retailer" means a person that is licensed to purchase
2153 cannabis and sell cannabis and medical [marijuana] cannabis products;

2154 (34) "Infused beverage" has the same meaning as provided in section
2155 21a-425, as amended by this act;

2156 (35) "Key employee" means an employee with the following
2157 management position or an equivalent title within a cannabis
2158 establishment: (A) President or chief officer, who is the top ranking
2159 individual at the cannabis establishment and is responsible for all staff
2160 and overall direction of business operations; (B) financial manager, who
2161 is the individual who reports to the president or chief officer and who is
2162 responsible for oversight of the financial operations of the cannabis
2163 establishment, which financial operations include one or more of the
2164 following: (i) Revenue and expense management; (ii) distributions; (iii)
2165 tax compliance; (iv) budget development; and (v) budget management
2166 and implementation; or (C) compliance manager, who is the individual

2167 who reports to the president or chief officer and who is generally
2168 responsible for ensuring the cannabis establishment complies with all
2169 laws, regulations and requirements related to the operation of the
2170 cannabis establishment;

2171 (36) "Labor peace agreement" means an agreement between a
2172 cannabis establishment and a bona fide labor organization under section
2173 21a-421d, as amended by this act, pursuant to which the owners and
2174 management of the cannabis establishment agree not to lock out
2175 employees and that prohibits the bona fide labor organization from
2176 engaging in picketing, work stoppages or boycotts against the cannabis
2177 establishment;

2178 (37) "Manufacture" means to add or incorporate cannabis into other
2179 products or ingredients or create a cannabis product;

2180 (38) ["Medical marijuana product"] "Medical cannabis product"
2181 means cannabis that may be exclusively sold to qualifying patients,
2182 [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-
2183 state caregivers by dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers and which
2184 are designated by the commissioner as reserved for sale to qualifying
2185 patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and
2186 qualifying out-of-state caregivers and published on the department's
2187 Internet web site;

2188 (39) "Micro-cultivator" means a person licensed to engage in the
2189 cultivation, growing and propagation of the cannabis plant at an
2190 establishment containing not less than two thousand square feet and not
2191 more than ten thousand square feet of grow space, prior to any
2192 expansion authorized by the commissioner;

2193 (40) "Municipality" means any town, city or borough, consolidated
2194 town and city or consolidated town and borough;

2195 (41) "Paraphernalia" means drug paraphernalia, as defined in section
2196 21a-240, as amended by this act;

2197 (42) "Person" means an individual, partnership, limited liability
2198 company, society, association, joint stock company, corporation, estate,
2199 receiver, trustee, assignee, referee or any other legal entity and any other
2200 person acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity, whether
2201 appointed by a court or otherwise, and any combination thereof;

2202 (43) "Personal data" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-
2203 515;

2204 [(43)] (44) "Producer" means a person that is licensed as a producer
2205 pursuant to section 21a-408i, as amended by this act, and any
2206 regulations adopted pursuant to said section;

2207 [(44)] (45) "Product manufacturer" means a person that is licensed to
2208 obtain cannabis, extract and manufacture products;

2209 [(45)] (46) "Product packager" means a person that is licensed to
2210 package and label cannabis;

2211 (47) "Qualifying out-of-state caregiver" has the same meaning as
2212 provided in section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

2213 (48) "Qualifying out-of-state patient" has the same meaning as
2214 provided in section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

2215 [(46)] (49) "Qualifying patient" has the same meaning as provided in
2216 section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

2217 [(47)] (50) "Research program" has the same meaning as provided in
2218 section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

2219 [(48)] (51) "Retailer" means a person, excluding a dispensary facility
2220 and hybrid retailer, that is licensed to purchase cannabis from
2221 producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product manufacturers and
2222 food and beverage manufacturers and to sell cannabis to consumers and
2223 research programs;

2224 [(49)] (52) "Sale" or "sell" has the same meaning as provided in section

2225 21a-240, as amended by this act;

2226 [(50)] (53) "Social Equity Council" or "council" means the council
2227 established under section 21a-420d, as amended by this act;

2228 [(51)] (54) "Social equity applicant" means a person that has applied
2229 for a license for a cannabis establishment, where such applicant is
2230 controlled, and at least sixty-five per cent owned, by an individual or
2231 individuals, or such applicant is an individual, who:

2232 (A) Had an average household income of less than three hundred per
2233 cent of the state median household income over the three tax years
2234 immediately preceding such individual's application; and

2235 (B) (i) Was a resident of a disproportionately impacted area for not
2236 less than five of the ten years immediately preceding the date of such
2237 application; or

2238 (ii) Was a resident of a disproportionately impacted area for not less
2239 than nine years prior to attaining the age of eighteen;

2240 [(52)] (55) "THC" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-
2241 240, as amended by this act;

2242 [(53)] (56) "Third-party lottery operator" means a person, or a
2243 constituent unit of the state system of higher education, that conducts
2244 lotteries pursuant to section 21a-420g, as amended by this act, identifies
2245 the cannabis establishment license applications for consideration
2246 without performing any review of the applications that are identified
2247 for consideration, and that has no direct or indirect oversight of or
2248 investment in a cannabis establishment or a cannabis establishment
2249 applicant;

2250 [(54)] (57) "Transfer" means to transfer, change, give or otherwise
2251 dispose of control over or interest in;

2252 [(55)] (58) "Transport" means to physically move from one place to
2253 another;

2254 [(56)] (59) "Transporter" means a person licensed to transport
2255 cannabis between cannabis establishments, cannabis testing
2256 laboratories and research programs; and

2257 [(57)] (60) "Unemployment rate" means, in a given area, the number
2258 of people sixteen years of age or older who are in the civilian labor force
2259 and unemployed divided by the number of people sixteen years of age
2260 or older who are in the civilian labor force.

2261 Sec. 48. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) There is established a
2262 cannabis regulatory working group to (1) study regulations adopted or
2263 proposed, and policies and procedures issued or proposed, by the
2264 Commissioner of Consumer Protection and the Social Equity Council
2265 concerning cannabis, (2) recommend the adoption or amendment of
2266 regulations concerning cannabis, (3) recommend the issuance or
2267 amendment of policies and procedures concerning cannabis, and (4)
2268 propose legislation concerning cannabis.

2269 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

2270 (1) One appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing
2271 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
2272 relating to consumer protection;

2273 (2) One appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing
2274 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
2275 relating to consumer protection;

2276 (3) One appointed by the House ranking member of the joint standing
2277 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
2278 relating to consumer protection; and

2279 (4) One appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint standing
2280 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
2281 relating to consumer protection.

2282 (c) Any member of the working group appointed under subsection
2283 (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

2284 (d) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not
2285 later than October 31, 2026. Any vacancy shall be filled by the
2286 appointing authority.

2287 (e) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
2288 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection
2289 shall select the chairpersons of the working group from among the
2290 members of the working group. The chairpersons of the working group
2291 shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be
2292 held not later than December 1, 2026.

2293 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
2294 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer
2295 protection shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

2296 (g) Not later than January 1, 2027, and periodically thereafter as the
2297 working group deems appropriate, the working group shall submit a
2298 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
2299 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
2300 relating to consumer protection, in accordance with the provisions of
2301 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

2302 Sec. 49. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) No retailer, hybrid retailer
2303 or dispensary facility shall borrow money or receive credit, directly or
2304 indirectly, in any form for a period in excess of thirty days from any
2305 cultivator, micro-cultivator or producer.

2306 Sec. 50. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Notwithstanding any
2307 provision of chapter 420f or 420h of the general statutes, no cannabis
2308 establishment licensed to deliver or transport cannabis shall be required
2309 to staff any cannabis delivery or transport vehicle with more than one
2310 employee in order to deliver or transport cannabis to another cannabis
2311 establishment, a cannabis testing laboratory or a research program
2312 location if such vehicle is equipped with the following devices and
2313 container for the purpose of preventing any diversion, theft or loss of
2314 cannabis:

2315 (1) An electronic recording device that electronically records video of
2316 such vehicle's interior at all times while such vehicle is used to deliver
2317 or transport cannabis;

2318 (2) An electronic tracking device that tracks, in real time, the
2319 geospatial location of such vehicle by means of the global positioning
2320 system at all times while such vehicle is used to deliver or transport
2321 cannabis; and

2322 (3) A secure container that is permanently affixed to such vehicle and
2323 contains all cannabis delivered or transported by such vehicle.

2324 (b) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt
2325 regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
2326 general statutes to implement the provisions of subsection (a) of this
2327 section, and may adopt policies and procedures as set forth in section
2328 21a-421j of the general statutes, as amended by this act, prior to adopting
2329 such regulations.

2330 Sec. 51. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) Notwithstanding any
2331 provision of chapter 420f or 420h of the general statutes, no producer,
2332 cultivator or micro-cultivator engaged in the outdoor cultivation of
2333 cannabis shall be required to maintain a fence on the perimeter of the
2334 outdoor cannabis cultivation area that is more than eight feet in height.

2335 Sec. 52. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) (1) Each cannabis
2336 establishment shall submit cannabis samples to a cannabis testing
2337 laboratory for testing in accordance with the laboratory testing
2338 standards established in the regulations adopted by the Commissioner
2339 of Consumer Protection pursuant to section 21a-421j of the general
2340 statutes, as amended by this act. The quantity and number of cannabis
2341 samples submitted shall be sufficient to ensure representative sampling
2342 of the corresponding cannabis batch size.

2343 (2) If the cannabis samples taken from a cannabis batch pass the
2344 laboratory testing required under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the
2345 cannabis batch shall be released for sale.

2346 (3) If the cannabis samples taken from a cannabis batch fail the
2347 laboratory testing required under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the
2348 cannabis establishment that submitted the failing cannabis samples to
2349 the cannabis testing laboratory shall, not later than sixty days after the
2350 date of such failed laboratory testing:

2351 (A) Repeat the laboratory testing required under subdivision (1) of
2352 this subsection on the cannabis batch in a form and manner approved
2353 by the commissioner;

2354 (B) Submit to the Department of Consumer Protection a remediation
2355 plan for the cannabis batch, in accordance with the provisions of
2356 subsection (c) of this section; or

2357 (C) Dispose of the entire cannabis batch in accordance with
2358 procedures established by the commissioner and published on the
2359 department's Internet web site, unless the cannabis establishment
2360 submits to the department during such sixty-day period, and the
2361 commissioner approves, a request to extend the disposal period by sixty
2362 days. The commissioner shall not grant more than two such requests for
2363 any cannabis batch.

2364 (b) Not later than sixty days after any repeated laboratory testing
2365 performed pursuant to subparagraph (A) of subdivision (3) of
2366 subsection (a) of this section:

2367 (1) If the cannabis samples pass such repeated laboratory testing, the
2368 cannabis batch from which such cannabis samples were taken shall be
2369 released for sale; or

2370 (2) If the cannabis samples fail such repeated laboratory testing, the
2371 cannabis establishment that submitted such failing cannabis samples
2372 shall:

2373 (A) Submit to the Department of Consumer Protection a remediation
2374 plan for the cannabis batch from which such failing cannabis samples
2375 were taken, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this

2376 section; or

2377 (B) Dispose of the entire cannabis batch from which such failing
2378 cannabis samples were taken in accordance with procedures established
2379 by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection and published on the
2380 department's Internet web site, unless the cannabis establishment
2381 submits to the department during such sixty-day period, and the
2382 commissioner approves, a request to extend the disposal period by sixty
2383 days. The commissioner shall not grant more than two such requests for
2384 any cannabis batch.

2385 (c) (1) Each remediation plan submitted to the Department of
2386 Consumer Protection under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (3) of
2387 subsection (a) of this section or subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of
2388 subsection (b) of this section shall be submitted in a form and manner
2389 prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

2390 (2) Not later than sixty days after the commissioner receives a
2391 remediation plan described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the
2392 commissioner shall:

2393 (A) Review the remediation plan to determine whether such
2394 remediation plan is sufficient to ensure public health and safety;

2395 (B) On the basis of such determination, approve or reject such
2396 remediation plan; and

2397 (C) Send to the cannabis establishment that submitted such
2398 remediation plan, in a form and manner prescribed by the
2399 commissioner, a written notice disclosing such approval or rejection
2400 and, in the case of a rejection, the reasons for such rejection.

2401 (3) If the commissioner does not send a written notice to the cannabis
2402 establishment pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of this
2403 subsection within the sixty-day period required under subdivision (2)
2404 of this subsection, such cannabis establishment's remediation plan shall
2405 be deemed approved.

2406 (4) If the commissioner approves the remediation plan under
2407 subdivision (2) of this subsection, or if such remediation plan is deemed
2408 approved under subdivision (3) of this subsection, the cannabis
2409 establishment shall remediate the cannabis batch from which the failing
2410 cannabis samples were taken and repeat all laboratory testing required
2411 under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section in a form and
2412 manner approved by the commissioner; and:

2413 (A) If the cannabis samples pass such repeated laboratory testing,
2414 such cannabis batch shall be released for sale; or

2415 (B) If the cannabis samples fail such repeated laboratory testing, the
2416 cannabis establishment that submitted such failing cannabis samples for
2417 such repeated laboratory testing shall, not later than sixty days after the
2418 date of such failed repeated laboratory testing, dispose of such cannabis
2419 batch in accordance with procedures established by the commissioner
2420 and published on the department's Internet web site, unless the
2421 cannabis establishment submits to the department during such sixty-
2422 day period, and the commissioner approves, a request to extend the
2423 disposal period by an additional sixty days. The commissioner shall not
2424 grant more than two such requests for any cannabis batch.

2425 Sec. 53. Subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of section 21a-420c of the 2026
2426 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
2427 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

2428 (a) As used in this section:

2429 (1) "Cigarette" has the same meaning as provided in section 4-28h;

2430 (2) "Electronic cigarette liquid" has the same meaning as provided in
2431 section 21a-415;

2432 (3) "Electronic nicotine delivery system" has the same meaning as
2433 provided in section 21a-415;

2434 (4) "Immediate threat to public health and safety" includes, but is not
2435 limited to, (A) the presence of [(A)] (i) any cannabis or cannabis product

2436 in connection with a violation of this section, [or (B)] (ii) any cigarette,
2437 tobacco product, electronic cigarette liquid, electronic nicotine delivery
2438 system, [or] liquid nicotine container or nicotine product stored or
2439 displayed adjacent or proximate to any cannabis or cannabis product or
2440 otherwise being sold unlawfully, (iii) any controlled substance in
2441 schedule I or II, (iv) any product offered or sold for human consumption
2442 that any federal, state or local government agency acting within the
2443 scope of its authority has deemed unsafe based on reports that such
2444 product has caused personal injury or illness, or (v) any unlawful
2445 firearm, or (B) any documented sale of any product to an individual who
2446 is under the minimum age to purchase such product;

2447 (5) "Liquid nicotine container" has the same meaning as provided in
2448 section 19a-342a, as amended by this act; [and]

2449 (6) "Nicotine product" means any product, regardless of form, that is
2450 made from or otherwise contains nicotine; and

2451 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) "Tobacco product" has the same meaning as provided in
2452 section 12-330a.

2453 (b) Except as provided in RERACA and chapter 420b or 420f, (1) no
2454 person, other than a retailer, hybrid retailer, micro-cultivator or delivery
2455 service, or an employee thereof in the course of such employee's
2456 employment, may sell or offer any cannabis or cannabis product to a
2457 consumer, [and] (2) no person, other than a hybrid retailer, dispensary
2458 facility or a delivery service, or an employee thereof in the course of such
2459 employee's employment, may sell or offer any cannabis or cannabis
2460 product to a qualifying patient or caregiver, and (3) no person, other
2461 than a hybrid retailer or dispensary facility, or an employee thereof in
2462 the course of such employee's employment, may sell or offer any
2463 cannabis or cannabis product to a qualifying out-of-state patient or
2464 qualifying out-of-state caregiver.

2465 (c) No person except a delivery service, or an employee of a delivery
2466 service, subject to the restrictions set forth in section 21a-420z, as
2467 amended by this act, acting in the course of such employee's

2468 employment, may deliver any cannabis or cannabis product to a
2469 consumer, qualifying patient or caregiver.

2470 (d) Any violation of the provisions of subsection (b) or (c) of this
2471 section shall be deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice under
2472 subsection (a) of section 42-110b.

2473 (e) (1) Any municipality may, by vote of its legislative body, prohibit
2474 the operation of any business within such municipality that is found to
2475 be in violation of the provisions of this section or if such operation poses
2476 an immediate threat to public health and safety.

2477 (2) If the chief executive officer of a municipality determines that a
2478 business within the municipality is operating in violation of the
2479 provisions of this section or poses an immediate threat to public health
2480 and safety, the chief executive officer may apply to the Superior Court
2481 for an order under subdivision (3) of this subsection and, upon making
2482 such application, submit a written copy of such application to the
2483 Attorney General and the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

2484 (3) Upon an application under subdivision (2) of this subsection, the
2485 Superior Court, upon a finding that a business within the municipality
2486 is operating in violation of the provisions of this section or poses an
2487 immediate threat to public health and safety, may issue forthwith, ex
2488 parte and without a hearing, an order that shall direct the chief law
2489 enforcement officer of the municipality to summarily close such
2490 business, seal the premises of such business and take from such business
2491 possession and control of any merchandise related to such violation or
2492 immediate threat to public health and safety, which merchandise shall
2493 include, but need not be limited to, (A) any cannabis or cannabis
2494 product, (B) any cigarette, tobacco, tobacco product, electronic cigarette
2495 liquid, electronic nicotine delivery system, [or] liquid nicotine container
2496 or nicotine product, (C) any merchandise related to the merchandise
2497 described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision, and (D) any
2498 proceeds related to the merchandise described in subparagraphs (A) to
2499 (C), inclusive, of this subdivision.

2500 (4) As used in this subsection, "operation" and "operating" mean
2501 engaging in the sale of goods and services to the general public,
2502 including, but not limited to, through indirect retail sales.

2503 Sec. 54. Section 21a-420d of the 2026 supplement to the general
2504 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
2505 (*Effective from passage*):

2506 (a) There is established a Social Equity Council, which shall be within
2507 the Department of Economic and Community Development for
2508 administrative purposes only.

2509 (b) The Social Equity Council shall consist of seventeen members as
2510 follows:

2511 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
2512 who has a professional background of not less than five years working
2513 in the field of either social justice or civil rights;

2514 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
2515 has a professional background of not less than five years working in the
2516 field of either social justice or civil rights;

2517 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
2518 Representatives, who has a professional background of not less than five
2519 years working in the field of economic development to help minority-
2520 owned businesses;

2521 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who has a
2522 professional background of not less than five years in providing access
2523 to capital to minorities, as defined in section 32-9n;

2524 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
2525 Representatives, who is from a community that has been
2526 disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement;

2527 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who has a
2528 professional background of not less than five years in providing access

2529 to capital to minorities, as defined in section 32-9n;

2530 (7) Two appointed by the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican
2531 Caucus of the General Assembly, one of whom shall be designated by
2532 the chairperson of the Black Caucus of the General Assembly and one of
2533 whom shall be designated by the chairperson of the Puerto Rican and
2534 Latino Caucus of the General Assembly;

2535 (8) Five appointed by the Governor, one who is from a community
2536 that has been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and
2537 enforcement, one who has a professional background of not less than
2538 five years working in the field of economic development and one who
2539 is an executive branch official focused on workforce development;

2540 (9) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's
2541 designee;

2542 (10) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
2543 or the commissioner's designee;

2544 (11) The State Treasurer, or the State Treasurer's designee; and

2545 (12) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
2546 secretary's designee.

2547 (c) (1) In making the appointments in subsection (b) of this section,
2548 the appointing authority shall use best efforts to make appointments
2549 that reflect the racial, gender and geographic diversity of the population
2550 of the state.

2551 (2) Members appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of four
2552 years from the time of appointment and members appointed by any
2553 other appointing authority shall serve a term of three years from the
2554 time of appointment. The appointing authority shall fill any vacancy for
2555 the unexpired term.

2556 (3) (A) The Governor shall appoint an interim executive director to
2557 operationalize and support the Social Equity Council until,

2558 notwithstanding the provisions of section 4-9a, the council appoints an
2559 executive director. Subject to the provisions of chapter 67, and within
2560 available appropriations, the council may thereafter appoint an
2561 executive director and such other employees as may be necessary for the
2562 discharge of the duties of the council.

2563 (B) Not later than July 1, 2024, the council shall adopt bylaws
2564 specifying which duties are retained by the members of the council and
2565 which duties are delegated to the executive director.

2566 (C) The council may, by a simple majority vote of the members of the
2567 council, take any formal personnel action concerning the executive
2568 director for any reason.

2569 (D) In addition to the council's authority under subparagraph (C) of
2570 this subdivision, if a final review board consisting of the chairperson
2571 and the members of the council appointed under subdivisions (1), (2),
2572 (5) and (6) of subsection (b) of this section determines, by a simple
2573 majority vote of the members of the final review board, that removing
2574 the executive director is in the best interest of serving the council's
2575 mission, such final review board shall issue a letter to the council
2576 recommending that the council remove the executive director.

2577 (4) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson of the council from
2578 among the members of the council. The chairperson shall directly
2579 supervise, establish annual goals for and conduct an annual
2580 performance review of the executive director.

2581 (5) The chairperson and executive director shall jointly develop, and
2582 the council shall review and approve, (A) allocations of moneys in the
2583 social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f,
2584 for the purposes that the council determines under subsection (a) of
2585 section 21a-420f, further the principles of equity, and (B) any plans for
2586 expenditures to provide (i) access to capital for businesses, (ii) technical
2587 assistance for the start-up and operation of a business, (iii) funding for
2588 workforce education, (iv) funding for community investments, and (v)
2589 funding for investments in disproportionately impacted areas.

2590 (d) A majority of the members of the Social Equity Council shall
2591 constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. The members
2592 of the council shall serve without compensation, but shall, within
2593 available appropriations, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily
2594 incurred in the performance of their duties. Any member who fails to
2595 attend three consecutive meetings, or who fails to attend fifty per cent
2596 of all meetings held during any calendar year, may be removed from
2597 office by a simple majority vote of the members of the council. The
2598 appointing authority shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of any
2599 member who is removed from office under this subsection, and shall
2600 use best efforts to ensure such appointment reflects the racial, gender
2601 and geographic diversity of the population of the state.

2602 (e) The Social Equity Council may (1) request, and shall receive, from
2603 any state agency such information and assistance as the council may
2604 require to carry out its duties, (2) use such funds as may be available
2605 from federal, state or other sources [and may] to carry out its duties, (3)
2606 enter into contracts or agreements to carry out [the purposes of the
2607 council] its duties, including, but not limited to, contracts or agreements
2608 with Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, constituent units of the
2609 state system of higher education, regional workforce development
2610 boards and community development financial institutions, [(3)] (4)
2611 utilize such voluntary and uncompensated services of private
2612 individuals, state or federal agencies and organizations as may, from
2613 time to time, be offered and needed [, (4)] to carry out its duties, (5)
2614 accept any gift, donation or bequest [for the purpose of performing the]
2615 to carry out its duties, [of the council, (5)] (6) conduct such investigations
2616 as the council may deem necessary to carry out its duties, provided such
2617 investigations concern matters, complaints or concerns that (A) are
2618 brought before the council by individuals who meet the criteria
2619 established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (51) of section
2620 21a-420, as amended by this act, and (B) relate to the protection,
2621 enforcement or advancement of equity under this chapter, (7) hold
2622 public hearings, [(6)] (8) establish such standing committees, as
2623 necessary, to [perform the] carry out its duties, [of the council,] and [(7)]

2624 (9) adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,
2625 as the council may deem necessary to carry out [the] its duties. [of the
2626 council.]

2627 (f) The Social Equity Council shall promote and encourage full
2628 participation in the cannabis industry by persons from communities
2629 that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and
2630 enforcement.

2631 (g) Not later than forty-five days after June 22, 2021, or at a later date
2632 determined by the Social Equity Council, the council shall establish
2633 criteria for proposals to conduct a study under this section and the
2634 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall post on the State
2635 Contracting Portal a request for proposals to conduct a study, and shall
2636 select an independent third party to conduct such study and provide
2637 detailed findings of fact regarding the following matters in the state or
2638 other matters determined by the council:

2639 (1) Historical and present-day social, economic and familial
2640 consequences of cannabis prohibition, the criminalization and
2641 stigmatization of cannabis use and related public policies;

2642 (2) Historical and present-day structures, patterns, causes and
2643 consequences of intentional and unintentional racial discrimination and
2644 racial disparities in the development, application and enforcement of
2645 cannabis prohibition and related public policies;

2646 (3) Foreseeable long-term social, economic and familial consequences
2647 of unremedied past racial discrimination and disparities arising from
2648 past and continued cannabis prohibition, stigmatization and
2649 criminalization;

2650 (4) Existing patterns of racial discrimination and racial disparities in
2651 access to entrepreneurship, employment and other economic benefits
2652 arising in the lawful palliative use cannabis sector as established
2653 pursuant to chapter 420f; and

2654 (5) Any other matters that the council deems relevant and feasible for
2655 study for the purpose of making reasonable and practical
2656 recommendations for the establishment of an equitable and lawful
2657 adult-use cannabis business sector in this state.

2658 (h) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Social Equity Council shall,
2659 taking into account the results of the study conducted in accordance
2660 with subsection (g) of this section, make written recommendations, in
2661 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor and the
2662 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
2663 of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding, consumer
2664 protection and the judiciary regarding legislation to implement the
2665 provisions of this section. The council shall make recommendations
2666 regarding:

2667 (1) Creating programs to ensure that individuals from communities
2668 that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and
2669 enforcement are provided equal access to licenses for cannabis
2670 establishments;

2671 (2) Specifying additional qualifications for social equity applicants;

2672 (3) Providing for expedited or priority license processing for each
2673 license as a retailer, hybrid retailer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product
2674 manufacturer, food and beverage manufacturer, product packager,
2675 transporter and delivery service license for social equity applicants;

2676 (4) Establishing minimum criteria for any cannabis establishment
2677 licensed on or after January 1, 2022, to comply with an approved
2678 workforce development plan to reinvest or provide employment and
2679 training opportunities for individuals in disproportionately impacted
2680 areas;

2681 (5) Establishing criteria for a social equity plan for any cannabis
2682 establishment licensed on or after January 1, 2022, to further the
2683 principles of equity;

2684 (6) Recruiting individuals from communities that have been
2685 disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement to
2686 enroll in the workforce training program established pursuant to section
2687 21a-421g;

2688 (7) Potential uses for revenue generated under RERACA to further
2689 equity;

2690 (8) Encouraging participation of investors, cannabis establishments
2691 and entrepreneurs in the cannabis business accelerator program
2692 established pursuant to section 21a-421f;

2693 (9) Establishing a process to best ensure that social equity applicants
2694 have access to the capital and training needed to own and operate a
2695 cannabis establishment; and

2696 (10) Developing a vendor list of women-owned and minority-owned
2697 businesses that cannabis establishments may contract with for necessary
2698 services, including, but not limited to, office supplies, information
2699 technology infrastructure and cleaning services.

2700 (i) (1) Not later than August 1, 2021, and annually thereafter until July
2701 31, 2023, the Social Equity Council shall use the most recent five-year
2702 United States Census Bureau American Community Survey estimates
2703 or any successor data to determine one or more United States census
2704 tracts in the state that are a disproportionately impacted area and shall
2705 publish a list of such tracts on the council's Internet web site.

2706 (2) Not later than August 1, 2023, the council shall use poverty rate
2707 data from the most recent five-year United States Census Bureau
2708 American Community Survey estimates, population data from the most
2709 recent decennial census and conviction information from databases
2710 managed by the Department of Emergency Services and Public
2711 Protection to identify all United States census tracts in the state that are
2712 disproportionately impacted areas and shall publish a list of such tracts
2713 on the council's Internet web site. In identifying which census tracts in
2714 this state are disproportionately impacted areas and preparing such list,

2715 the council shall:

2716 (A) Not deem any census tract with a poverty rate that is less than the
2717 state-wide poverty rate to be a disproportionately impacted area;

2718 (B) After eliminating the census tracts described in subparagraph (A)
2719 of this subdivision, rank the remaining census tracts in order from the
2720 census tract with the greatest historical conviction rate for drug-related
2721 offenses to the census tract with the lowest historical conviction rate for
2722 drug-related offenses; and

2723 (C) Include census tracts in the order of rank described in
2724 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision until including the next census
2725 tract would cause the total population of all included census tracts to
2726 exceed twenty-five per cent of the state's population.

2727 (j) After developing criteria for workforce development plans as
2728 described in subdivision (4) of subsection (h) of this section, the Social
2729 Equity Council shall review and approve or deny in writing any such
2730 plan submitted by an applicant for a final license. If the Social Equity
2731 Council does not approve a workforce development plan for a cannabis
2732 establishment on or before July 1, 2025, the cannabis establishment shall
2733 submit a workforce development plan to the council not later than
2734 October 1, 2025, or sixty days prior to the next renewal date for such
2735 cannabis establishment's license, whichever is earlier. Not later than
2736 sixty days after the cannabis establishment submits the workforce
2737 development plan to the council, the council shall send notice to the
2738 cannabis establishment disclosing whether such workforce
2739 development plan has been approved, rejected or requires modification.

2740 (k) (1) The Social Equity Council shall develop criteria for evaluating
2741 the ownership and control of any equity joint venture created under
2742 section 21a-420j, as amended by this act, 21a-420m, as amended by this
2743 act, 21a-420u, as amended by this act, 21a-420aa, as amended by this act,
2744 [21a-420bbb] 21a-420bb, as amended by this act, or [21a-420ccc] 21a-
2745 420cc, as amended by this act, and shall review and approve or deny in
2746 writing such equity joint venture prior to such equity joint venture being

2747 licensed under section 21a-420j, as amended by this act, 21a-420m, as
2748 amended by this act, 21a-420u, as amended by this act, 21a-420aa, as
2749 amended by this act, [21a-420bbb] 21a-420bb, as amended by this act, or
2750 [21a-420ccc] 21a-420cc, as amended by this act. The council shall not
2751 approve any equity joint venture applicant which shares with an equity
2752 joint venture any individual owner who meets the criteria established
2753 in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (51) of section 21a-420, as
2754 amended by this act, other than an individual owner in their capacity as
2755 a backer licensed under section 21a-420o.

2756 (2) No contract entered into or renewed on or after the effective date
2757 of this section shall provide that any change may be made in the
2758 ownership or control of any equity joint venture created under section
2759 21a-420j, as amended by this act, 21a-420m, as amended by this act, 21a-
2760 420u, as amended by this act, 21a-420aa, as amended by this act, 21a-
2761 420bb, as amended by this act, or 21a-420cc, as amended by this act, that
2762 would cause such equity joint venture not to be controlled, and at least
2763 fifty per cent owned, by an individual who meets the criteria established
2764 in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (51) of section 21a-420, as
2765 amended by this act, unless:

2766 (A) At least five years have elapsed since a final license was issued to
2767 the equity joint venture;

2768 (B) At least ninety days before the effective date of such change, the
2769 equity joint venture (i) submits a written notice to the council, in a form
2770 and manner prescribed by the council, disclosing that the equity joint
2771 venture intends to make such change, and (ii) sends a written notice to
2772 the individual who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A)
2773 and (B) of subdivision (51) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act,
2774 disclosing that such individual may, not later than sixty days before the
2775 effective date of such change, submit a written request to the council, in
2776 a form and manner prescribed by the council, that the council perform
2777 an optional nonfinancial review of such change pursuant to
2778 subparagraph (C) of this subdivision;

2779 (C) If the council receives a written request submitted under
2780 subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision, the council, not later than thirty
2781 days before the effective date of such change, (i) completes the optional
2782 nonfinancial review to determine (I) whether the individual described
2783 in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision has retained legal counsel to
2784 advise such individual regarding such change, understands the
2785 structure and implications of such change, understands the financial
2786 terms of such change, has engaged with such individual's business
2787 partners, if any, to ensure that such change is appropriate and consents
2788 to such change free of any coercion or undue pressure, and (II) whether
2789 such change complies with the organizational documents of the equity
2790 joint venture, and (ii) sends a written notice to the individual described
2791 in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision and the equity joint venture,
2792 in a form and manner prescribed by the council, disclosing the results
2793 of such optional nonfinancial review; and

2794 (D) The person acquiring ownership or control of the equity joint
2795 venture from the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this
2796 subdivision has paid to the council, in a form and manner prescribed by
2797 the council, (i) a nonrefundable transaction processing fee in the amount
2798 of eight thousand dollars, which the council shall deposit in the social
2799 equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f, and
2800 (ii) the outstanding balance of all loans issued to the equity joint venture,
2801 or the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision,
2802 as part of the revolving loan program established pursuant to section
2803 21a-421i.

2804 (3) Nothing in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be construed to
2805 authorize the council to delay or reject any change described in said
2806 subdivision due to the results of an optional nonfinancial review
2807 performed pursuant to subparagraph (C) of said subdivision. Any
2808 change made in violation of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be
2809 void and of no effect.

2810 (l) The Social Equity Council shall, upon receipt of funds from
2811 producers in accordance with subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section

2812 21a-420l, as amended by this act, develop a program to assist social
2813 equity applicants to open not more than two micro-cultivator
2814 establishment businesses in total. Producers shall provide mentorship
2815 to such social equity applicants. The council shall, with the department,
2816 determine a system to select social equity applicants to participate in
2817 such program without participating in a lottery or request for proposals.

2818 (m) (1) The Social Equity Council shall review and either approve or
2819 deny, in writing, any social equity plan submitted by a cannabis
2820 establishment as part of the cannabis establishment's final license
2821 application. The council shall approve or deny such social equity plan
2822 not later than thirty days after such social equity plan is submitted to
2823 the council. If the council denies any such social equity plan, the
2824 applicant may revise and resubmit such social equity plan without
2825 prejudice.

2826 (2) (A) Each licensed cannabis establishment shall (i) maintain an
2827 active social equity plan at all times while such cannabis establishment
2828 is in operation, and (ii) not later than March [1, 2026, and annually
2829 thereafter] first, annually, submit to the council a report disclosing the
2830 impact such social equity plan had on the disproportionately impacted
2831 area in which such cannabis establishment is located during the
2832 preceding calendar year.

2833 (B) The council shall review each report submitted pursuant to
2834 subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision and may, not later than sixty
2835 days after completing such review, request that the licensed cannabis
2836 establishment that submitted such report revise such cannabis
2837 establishment's social equity plan to ensure that such social equity plan
2838 furthers the principles of equity.

2839 (3) Not later than July 1, 2024, the council shall update the criteria for
2840 social equity plans described in subdivision (5) of subsection (h) of this
2841 section to include a specific, points-based rubric to evaluate social equity
2842 plans.

2843 (n) The Social Equity Council shall approve the amounts, grantees

2844 and purposes of any grants made by the council from the social equity
2845 and innovation account or the Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation
2846 Fund, established under section 21a-420f, and any contract executed by
2847 and between the council and a grant maker shall require that the
2848 amounts, grantees and purposes of any subgrants made by such grant
2849 maker shall be approved by the council.

2850 (o) Not later than [July 1, 2024, and quarterly thereafter] the first days
2851 of January, April, July and October for the preceding calendar quarter,
2852 the Social Equity Council shall prepare and submit a quarterly report,
2853 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor, the
2854 speaker of the House of Representatives, the president pro tempore of
2855 the Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the
2856 majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of
2857 Representatives, the minority leader of the Senate, [and] the joint
2858 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
2859 matters relating to appropriations and consumer protection and the
2860 chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the General
2861 Assembly. The report shall include, but need not be limited to:

2862 (1) The fiscal-year-to-date expenditures of the council, which
2863 expenditures shall disclose, at a minimum: (A) All expenditures made
2864 for personal services and the fringe benefit costs associated therewith;
2865 (B) all expenditures made for consultants retained for the purpose of
2866 reviewing applications for social equity applicant status; (C) all
2867 expenditures made to provide businesses with access to capital and the
2868 number of businesses that received access to such capital; (D) all
2869 expenditures made to provide technical assistance for the start-up and
2870 operation of businesses and the number of businesses that received such
2871 assistance; (E) all expenditures made to fund workforce education, the
2872 number of persons served by the workforce education programs
2873 supported by such expenditures and the number of persons successfully
2874 placed in relevant professional roles after completing such workforce
2875 education programs; (F) all expenditures made to fund community
2876 investment grants, the amounts, grantees and purposes of such grants
2877 and, if any of such grants were made to a grant maker, the amounts,

2878 grantees and purposes of any subgrants made by such grant maker; (G)
2879 all expenditures made for promotional or branding items and which
2880 promotional or branding items were purchased; (H) all expenditures
2881 made for advertising or marketing campaigns; (I) all expenditures made
2882 to advertising or marketing firms; (J) all expenditures made for
2883 sponsorships; (K) all expenditures made for other community outreach;
2884 (L) all expenditures made for travel; and (M) all other expenditures not
2885 described in subparagraphs (A) to (L), inclusive, of this subdivision; and

2886 (2) The status of the council's performance of the council's
2887 responsibilities in the licensing process under RERACA, including, but
2888 not limited to: (A) The number of applications for social equity applicant
2889 status, social equity plans and workforce development plans pending
2890 before the council, categorized into the number of applications, social
2891 equity plans and workforce development plans pending before the
2892 council for (i) less than thirty days, (ii) at least thirty days but less than
2893 sixty days, (iii) at least sixty days but less than ninety days, and (iv) at
2894 least ninety days; (B) the number of applications for social equity
2895 applicant status, social equity plans and workforce development plans
2896 approved during the then current fiscal year, broken down by license
2897 type; and (C) the number of applications for social equity applicant
2898 status, social equity plans and workforce development plans denied
2899 during the then current fiscal year, broken down by license type.

2900 [(p) Not later than July 1, 2024, and monthly thereafter, the executive
2901 director of the council shall prepare and submit a report, in accordance
2902 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the council and the Black and
2903 Puerto Rican Caucus of the General Assembly. The report shall include,
2904 but need not be limited to:

2905 (1) The expenditures the council plans to make during the month
2906 immediately following submission of such report, which expenditures
2907 shall disclose, at a minimum: (A) All expenditures the council plans to
2908 make for consultants retained for the purpose of reviewing applications
2909 for social equity applicant status; (B) all expenditures the council plans
2910 to make to fund community investment grants, the amounts, grantees

2911 and purposes of such grants and, if any of such grants are to be made to
2912 a grant maker, the amounts, grantees and purposes of any subgrants to
2913 be made by such grant maker; (C) all expenditures the council plans to
2914 make for promotional or branding items, for advertising or marketing
2915 campaigns, to advertising or marketing firms and for sponsorships; (D)
2916 all expenditures the council plans to make for community outreach; and
2917 (E) all expenditures the council plans to make for travel; and

2918 (2) The status of the council's performance of the council's
2919 responsibilities in the licensing process under RERACA, including, but
2920 not limited to, the following information for the date of such report: (A)
2921 The number of applications for social equity applicant status that are
2922 pending before the council and the date each such application was
2923 submitted, broken down by license type, municipality, assembly district
2924 and senate district; (B) the number of social equity plans that are
2925 pending before the council and the date each such social equity plan was
2926 submitted, broken down by license type; and (C) the number of
2927 workforce development plans that are pending before the council and
2928 the date each such workforce development plan was submitted, broken
2929 down by license type.]

2930 [(q)] (p) Not later than October 1, 2025, the council shall develop and
2931 submit a strategic plan to the Governor and the joint standing
2932 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
2933 relating to appropriations and consumer protection. The strategic plan
2934 shall include a framework that outlines the council's goals, planned
2935 actions and priorities for the three-year period beginning October 1,
2936 2025, and ending September 30, 2028.

2937 [(r)] (q) Not later than October 1, 2025, the council shall develop and
2938 adopt an ethical code of conduct for council members and staff.

2939 [(s)] (r) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
2940 members of the council and council staff shall complete an ethics
2941 training course focusing on disproportionately impacted areas and the
2942 cannabis industry.

2943 (s) The council shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
2944 provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of subsection (k)
2945 of this section and subsection (a) of section 21a-420g, as amended by this
2946 act. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172,
2947 inclusive, in order to implement the provisions of subsection (k) of this
2948 section and subsection (a) of section 21a-420g, as amended by this act,
2949 prior to adopting such regulations the council shall, not later than
2950 October 1, 2026, issue policies and procedures to implement the
2951 provisions of subsection (k) of this section and subsection (a) of section
2952 21a-420g, as amended by this act, that shall have the force and effect of
2953 law. The council shall post all policies and procedures on its Internet
2954 web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of
2955 the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days
2956 prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy
2957 or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the
2958 adoption of such policy or procedure as a final regulation under section
2959 4-172 or October 1, 2027, if such regulations have not been submitted to
2960 the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under
2961 section 4-170. Any violation of such policies and procedures or any
2962 violation of such regulations related to any change in ownership or
2963 control may be referred by the council to the Department of Consumer
2964 Protection for administrative enforcement action, which may result in a
2965 fine of not more than ten million dollars or action against the cannabis
2966 establishment's license.

2967 Sec. 55. Subsections (e) to (s), inclusive, of section 21a-420d of the 2026
2968 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 54 of this act,
2969 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
2970 *October 1, 2026*):

2971 (e) The Social Equity Council may (1) request, and shall receive, from
2972 any state agency such information and assistance as the council may
2973 require to carry out its duties, (2) use such funds as may be available
2974 from federal, state or other sources to carry out its duties, (3) enter into
2975 contracts or agreements to carry out its duties, including, but not limited
2976 to, contracts or agreements with Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated,

2977 constituent units of the state system of higher education, regional
2978 workforce development boards and community development financial
2979 institutions, (4) utilize such voluntary and uncompensated services of
2980 private individuals, state or federal agencies and organizations as may,
2981 from time to time, be offered and needed to carry out its duties, (5)
2982 accept any gift, donation or bequest to carry out its duties, (6) conduct
2983 such investigations as the council may deem necessary to carry out its
2984 duties, provided such investigations concern matters, complaints or
2985 concerns that (A) are brought before the council by individuals who
2986 meet the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision
2987 [(51)] (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act, and (B) relate to the
2988 protection, enforcement or advancement of equity under this chapter,
2989 (7) hold public hearings, (8) establish such standing committees, as
2990 necessary, to carry out its duties, and (9) adopt regulations, in
2991 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, as the council may deem
2992 necessary to carry out its duties.

2993 (f) The Social Equity Council shall promote and encourage full
2994 participation in the cannabis industry by persons from communities
2995 that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and
2996 enforcement.

2997 (g) Not later than forty-five days after June 22, 2021, or at a later date
2998 determined by the Social Equity Council, the council shall establish
2999 criteria for proposals to conduct a study under this section and the
3000 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall post on the State
3001 Contracting Portal a request for proposals to conduct a study, and shall
3002 select an independent third party to conduct such study and provide
3003 detailed findings of fact regarding the following matters in the state or
3004 other matters determined by the council:

3005 (1) Historical and present-day social, economic and familial
3006 consequences of cannabis prohibition, the criminalization and
3007 stigmatization of cannabis use and related public policies;

3008 (2) Historical and present-day structures, patterns, causes and

3009 consequences of intentional and unintentional racial discrimination and
3010 racial disparities in the development, application and enforcement of
3011 cannabis prohibition and related public policies;

3012 (3) Foreseeable long-term social, economic and familial consequences
3013 of unremedied past racial discrimination and disparities arising from
3014 past and continued cannabis prohibition, stigmatization and
3015 criminalization;

3016 (4) Existing patterns of racial discrimination and racial disparities in
3017 access to entrepreneurship, employment and other economic benefits
3018 arising in the lawful palliative use cannabis sector as established
3019 pursuant to chapter 420f; and

3020 (5) Any other matters that the council deems relevant and feasible for
3021 study for the purpose of making reasonable and practical
3022 recommendations for the establishment of an equitable and lawful
3023 adult-use cannabis business sector in this state.

3024 (h) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Social Equity Council shall,
3025 taking into account the results of the study conducted in accordance
3026 with subsection (g) of this section, make written recommendations, in
3027 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor and the
3028 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
3029 of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding, consumer
3030 protection and the judiciary regarding legislation to implement the
3031 provisions of this section. The council shall make recommendations
3032 regarding:

3033 (1) Creating programs to ensure that individuals from communities
3034 that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and
3035 enforcement are provided equal access to licenses for cannabis
3036 establishments;

3037 (2) Specifying additional qualifications for social equity applicants;

3038 (3) Providing for expedited or priority license processing for each

3039 license as a retailer, hybrid retailer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product
3040 manufacturer, food and beverage manufacturer, product packager,
3041 transporter and delivery service license for social equity applicants;

3042 (4) Establishing minimum criteria for any cannabis establishment
3043 licensed on or after January 1, 2022, to comply with an approved
3044 workforce development plan to reinvest or provide employment and
3045 training opportunities for individuals in disproportionately impacted
3046 areas;

3047 (5) Establishing criteria for a social equity plan for any cannabis
3048 establishment licensed on or after January 1, 2022, to further the
3049 principles of equity;

3050 (6) Recruiting individuals from communities that have been
3051 disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement to
3052 enroll in the workforce training program established pursuant to section
3053 21a-421g;

3054 (7) Potential uses for revenue generated under RERACA to further
3055 equity;

3056 (8) Encouraging participation of investors, cannabis establishments
3057 and entrepreneurs in the cannabis business accelerator program
3058 established pursuant to section 21a-421f;

3059 (9) Establishing a process to best ensure that social equity applicants
3060 have access to the capital and training needed to own and operate a
3061 cannabis establishment; and

3062 (10) Developing a vendor list of women-owned and minority-owned
3063 businesses that cannabis establishments may contract with for necessary
3064 services, including, but not limited to, office supplies, information
3065 technology infrastructure and cleaning services.

3066 (i) (1) Not later than August 1, 2021, and annually thereafter until July
3067 31, 2023, the Social Equity Council shall use the most recent five-year
3068 United States Census Bureau American Community Survey estimates

3069 or any successor data to determine one or more United States census
3070 tracts in the state that are a disproportionately impacted area and shall
3071 publish a list of such tracts on the council's Internet web site.

3072 (2) Not later than August 1, 2023, the council shall use poverty rate
3073 data from the most recent five-year United States Census Bureau
3074 American Community Survey estimates, population data from the most
3075 recent decennial census and conviction information from databases
3076 managed by the Department of Emergency Services and Public
3077 Protection to identify all United States census tracts in the state that are
3078 disproportionately impacted areas and shall publish a list of such tracts
3079 on the council's Internet web site. In identifying which census tracts in
3080 this state are disproportionately impacted areas and preparing such list,
3081 the council shall:

3082 (A) Not deem any census tract with a poverty rate that is less than the
3083 state-wide poverty rate to be a disproportionately impacted area;

3084 (B) After eliminating the census tracts described in subparagraph (A)
3085 of this subdivision, rank the remaining census tracts in order from the
3086 census tract with the greatest historical conviction rate for drug-related
3087 offenses to the census tract with the lowest historical conviction rate for
3088 drug-related offenses; and

3089 (C) Include census tracts in the order of rank described in
3090 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision until including the next census
3091 tract would cause the total population of all included census tracts to
3092 exceed twenty-five per cent of the state's population.

3093 (j) After developing criteria for workforce development plans as
3094 described in subdivision (4) of subsection (h) of this section, the Social
3095 Equity Council shall review and approve or deny in writing any such
3096 plan submitted by an applicant for a final license. If the Social Equity
3097 Council does not approve a workforce development plan for a cannabis
3098 establishment on or before July 1, 2025, the cannabis establishment shall
3099 submit a workforce development plan to the council not later than
3100 October 1, 2025, or sixty days prior to the next renewal date for such

3101 cannabis establishment's license, whichever is earlier. Not later than
3102 sixty days after the cannabis establishment submits the workforce
3103 development plan to the council, the council shall send notice to the
3104 cannabis establishment disclosing whether such workforce
3105 development plan has been approved, rejected or requires modification.

3106 (k) (1) The Social Equity Council shall develop criteria for evaluating
3107 the ownership and control of any equity joint venture created under
3108 section 21a-420j, as amended by this act, 21a-420m, as amended by this
3109 act, 21a-420u, as amended by this act, 21a-420aa, as amended by this act,
3110 21a-420bb, as amended by this act, or 21a-420cc, as amended by this act,
3111 and shall review and approve or deny in writing such equity joint
3112 venture prior to such equity joint venture being licensed under section
3113 21a-420j, as amended by this act, 21a-420m, as amended by this act, 21a-
3114 420u, as amended by this act, 21a-420aa, as amended by this act, 21a-
3115 420bb, as amended by this act, or 21a-420cc, as amended by this act. The
3116 council shall not approve any equity joint venture applicant which
3117 shares with an equity joint venture any individual owner who meets the
3118 criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(51)]
3119 (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act, other than an individual
3120 owner in their capacity as a backer licensed under section 21a-420o.

3121 (2) No contract entered into or renewed on or after the effective date
3122 of this section shall provide that any change may be made in the
3123 ownership or control of any equity joint venture created under section
3124 21a-420j, as amended by this act, 21a-420m, as amended by this act, 21a-
3125 420u, as amended by this act, 21a-420aa, as amended by this act, 21a-
3126 420bb, as amended by this act, or 21a-420cc, as amended by this act, that
3127 would cause such equity joint venture not to be controlled, and at least
3128 fifty per cent owned, by an individual who meets the criteria established
3129 in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(51)] (54) of section 21a-
3130 420, as amended by this act, unless:

3131 (A) At least five years have elapsed since a final license was issued to
3132 the equity joint venture;

3133 (B) At least ninety days before the effective date of such change, the
3134 equity joint venture (i) submits a written notice to the council, in a form
3135 and manner prescribed by the council, disclosing that the equity joint
3136 venture intends to make such change, and (ii) sends a written notice to
3137 the individual who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A)
3138 and (B) of subdivision [(51)] (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by this
3139 act, disclosing that such individual may, not later than sixty days before
3140 the effective date of such change, submit a written request to the council,
3141 in a form and manner prescribed by the council, that the council perform
3142 an optional nonfinancial review of such change pursuant to
3143 subparagraph (C) of this subdivision;

3144 (C) If the council receives a written request submitted under
3145 subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision, the council, not later than thirty
3146 days before the effective date of such change, (i) completes the optional
3147 nonfinancial review to determine (I) whether the individual described
3148 in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision has retained legal counsel to
3149 advise such individual regarding such change, understands the
3150 structure and implications of such change, understands the financial
3151 terms of such change, has engaged with such individual's business
3152 partners, if any, to ensure that such change is appropriate and consents
3153 to such change free of any coercion or undue pressure, and (II) whether
3154 such change complies with the organizational documents of the equity
3155 joint venture, and (ii) sends a written notice to the individual described
3156 in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision and the equity joint venture,
3157 in a form and manner prescribed by the council, disclosing the results
3158 of such optional nonfinancial review; and

3159 (D) The person acquiring ownership or control of the equity joint
3160 venture from the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this
3161 subdivision has paid to the council, in a form and manner prescribed by
3162 the council, (i) a nonrefundable transaction processing fee in the amount
3163 of eight thousand dollars, which the council shall deposit in the social
3164 equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f, and
3165 (ii) the outstanding balance of all loans issued to the equity joint venture,
3166 or the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision,

3167 as part of the revolving loan program established pursuant to section
3168 21a-421i.

3169 (3) Nothing in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be construed to
3170 authorize the council to delay or reject any change described in said
3171 subdivision due to the results of an optional nonfinancial review
3172 performed pursuant to subparagraph (C) of said subdivision. Any
3173 change made in violation of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be
3174 void and of no effect.

3175 (l) The Social Equity Council shall, upon receipt of funds from
3176 producers in accordance with subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section
3177 21a-420l, as amended by this act, develop a program to assist social
3178 equity applicants to open not more than two micro-cultivator
3179 establishment businesses in total. Producers shall provide mentorship
3180 to such social equity applicants. The council shall, with the department,
3181 determine a system to select social equity applicants to participate in
3182 such program without participating in a lottery or request for proposals.

3183 (m) (1) The Social Equity Council shall review and either approve or
3184 deny, in writing, any social equity plan submitted by a cannabis
3185 establishment as part of the cannabis establishment's final license
3186 application. The council shall approve or deny such social equity plan
3187 not later than thirty days after such social equity plan is submitted to
3188 the council. If the council denies any such social equity plan, the
3189 applicant may revise and resubmit such social equity plan without
3190 prejudice.

3191 (2) (A) Each licensed cannabis establishment shall (i) maintain an
3192 active social equity plan at all times while such cannabis establishment
3193 is in operation, and (ii) not later than March first, annually, submit to
3194 the council a report disclosing the impact such social equity plan had on
3195 the disproportionately impacted area in which such cannabis
3196 establishment is located during the preceding calendar year.

3197 (B) The council shall review each report submitted pursuant to
3198 subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision and may, not later than sixty

3199 days after completing such review, request that the licensed cannabis
3200 establishment that submitted such report revise such cannabis
3201 establishment's social equity plan to ensure that such social equity plan
3202 furthers the principles of equity.

3203 (3) Not later than July 1, 2024, the council shall update the criteria for
3204 social equity plans described in subdivision (5) of subsection (h) of this
3205 section to include a specific, points-based rubric to evaluate social equity
3206 plans.

3207 (n) The Social Equity Council shall approve the amounts, grantees
3208 and purposes of any grants made by the council from the social equity
3209 and innovation account or the Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation
3210 Fund, established under section 21a-420f, and any contract executed by
3211 and between the council and a grant maker shall require that the
3212 amounts, grantees and purposes of any subgrants made by such grant
3213 maker shall be approved by the council.

3214 (o) Not later than the first days of January, April, July and October
3215 for the preceding calendar quarter, the Social Equity Council shall
3216 prepare and submit a quarterly report, in accordance with the
3217 provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor, the speaker of the House of
3218 Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority
3219 leader of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate,
3220 the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader
3221 of the Senate, the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
3222 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and consumer
3223 protection and the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of
3224 the General Assembly. The report shall include, but need not be limited
3225 to:

3226 (1) The fiscal-year-to-date expenditures of the council, which
3227 expenditures shall disclose, at a minimum: (A) All expenditures made
3228 for personal services and the fringe benefit costs associated therewith;
3229 (B) all expenditures made for consultants retained for the purpose of
3230 reviewing applications for social equity applicant status; (C) all

3231 expenditures made to provide businesses with access to capital and the
3232 number of businesses that received access to such capital; (D) all
3233 expenditures made to provide technical assistance for the start-up and
3234 operation of businesses and the number of businesses that received such
3235 assistance; (E) all expenditures made to fund workforce education, the
3236 number of persons served by the workforce education programs
3237 supported by such expenditures and the number of persons successfully
3238 placed in relevant professional roles after completing such workforce
3239 education programs; (F) all expenditures made to fund community
3240 investment grants, the amounts, grantees and purposes of such grants
3241 and, if any of such grants were made to a grant maker, the amounts,
3242 grantees and purposes of any subgrants made by such grant maker; (G)
3243 all expenditures made for promotional or branding items and which
3244 promotional or branding items were purchased; (H) all expenditures
3245 made for advertising or marketing campaigns; (I) all expenditures made
3246 to advertising or marketing firms; (J) all expenditures made for
3247 sponsorships; (K) all expenditures made for other community outreach;
3248 (L) all expenditures made for travel; and (M) all other expenditures not
3249 described in subparagraphs (A) to (L), inclusive, of this subdivision; and

3250 (2) The status of the council's performance of the council's
3251 responsibilities in the licensing process under RERACA, including, but
3252 not limited to: (A) The number of applications for social equity applicant
3253 status, social equity plans and workforce development plans pending
3254 before the council, categorized into the number of applications, social
3255 equity plans and workforce development plans pending before the
3256 council for (i) less than thirty days, (ii) at least thirty days but less than
3257 sixty days, (iii) at least sixty days but less than ninety days, and (iv) at
3258 least ninety days; (B) the number of applications for social equity
3259 applicant status, social equity plans and workforce development plans
3260 approved during the then current fiscal year, broken down by license
3261 type; and (C) the number of applications for social equity applicant
3262 status, social equity plans and workforce development plans denied
3263 during the then current fiscal year, broken down by license type.

3264 (p) Not later than October 1, 2025, the council shall develop and

3265 submit a strategic plan to the Governor and the joint standing
3266 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
3267 relating to appropriations and consumer protection. The strategic plan
3268 shall include a framework that outlines the council's goals, planned
3269 actions and priorities for the three-year period beginning October 1,
3270 2025, and ending September 30, 2028.

3271 (q) Not later than October 1, 2025, the council shall develop and adopt
3272 an ethical code of conduct for council members and staff.

3273 (r) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
3274 members of the council and council staff shall complete an ethics
3275 training course focusing on disproportionately impacted areas and the
3276 cannabis industry.

3277 (s) The council shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
3278 provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of subsection (k)
3279 of this section and subsection (a) of section 21a-420g, as amended by this
3280 act. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172,
3281 inclusive, in order to implement the provisions of subsection (k) of this
3282 section and subsection (a) of section 21a-420g, as amended by this act,
3283 prior to adopting such regulations the council shall, not later than
3284 October 1, 2026, issue policies and procedures to implement the
3285 provisions of subsection (k) of this section and subsection (a) of section
3286 21a-420g, as amended by this act, that shall have the force and effect of
3287 law. The council shall post all policies and procedures on its Internet
3288 web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of
3289 the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days
3290 prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy
3291 or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the
3292 adoption of such policy or procedure as a final regulation under section
3293 4-172 or October 1, 2027, if such regulations have not been submitted to
3294 the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under
3295 section 4-170. Any violation of such policies and procedures or any
3296 violation of such regulations related to any change in ownership or
3297 control may be referred by the council to the Department of Consumer

3298 Protection for administrative enforcement action, which may result in a
3299 fine of not more than ten million dollars or action against the cannabis
3300 establishment's license.

3301 Sec. 56. Subsection (a) of section 21a-420g of the 2026 supplement to
3302 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3303 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3304 (a) The Social Equity Council shall review the ownership information
3305 and any other information necessary to confirm that an applicant
3306 qualifies as a social equity applicant for all cannabis establishment
3307 license type applications submitted to the department and designated
3308 by the applicant as a social equity applicant. The Social Equity Council
3309 shall prescribe the documentation necessary for applicants to submit to
3310 establish that the ownership, residency and income requirements for
3311 social equity applicants are met. On or before September 1, 2021, the
3312 Social Equity Council shall post such necessary documentation
3313 requirements on its Internet web site to inform applicants of such
3314 requirements prior to the start of the application period. Except as
3315 provided in the regulations adopted by the council pursuant to section
3316 21a-420h, as amended by this act, no change shall be made in the
3317 ownership or control of a social equity applicant that has been approved
3318 by the council during the period of provisional licensure and for three
3319 years following issuance of a final license.

3320 Sec. 57. Subsection (g) of section 21a-420g of the 2026 supplement to
3321 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3322 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3323 (g) (1) No additional backers may be added to a cannabis
3324 establishment application between the time of lottery entry, or any
3325 initial application for a license, and when a final license is awarded to
3326 the cannabis establishment, except: [, if]

3327 (A) If a backer of an applicant or provisional licensee dies, the
3328 applicant or provisional licensee may apply to the commissioner, in a
3329 form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, to replace the

3330 deceased backer, provided if such applicant or provisional licensee is a
3331 social equity applicant, the Social Equity Council shall review
3332 ownership to ensure such replacement would not [cause the applicant
3333 to no longer qualify] disqualify such applicant or provisional licensee as
3334 a social equity applicant; and

3335 (B) An applicant or provisional licensee that is a social equity
3336 applicant may apply to the commissioner, in a form and manner
3337 prescribed by the commissioner, for a one-time replacement of an
3338 original backer, provided the original backer to be replaced is not an
3339 individual who meets the criteria of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
3340 subdivision (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act.

3341 (2) A backer may be removed from a cannabis establishment
3342 application selected through the general lottery at any time upon notice
3343 to the department.

3344 Sec. 58. Section 21a-420h of the 2026 supplement to the general
3345 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3346 (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

3347 The Social Equity Council shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
3348 the provisions of chapter 54, to prevent the sale or change in ownership
3349 or control of a cannabis establishment license awarded to a social equity
3350 applicant to someone other than another qualifying social equity
3351 applicant during the period of provisional licensure, and for three years
3352 following the issuance of a final license, unless the backer of such
3353 licensee has died or has a condition, including, but not limited to, a
3354 physical illness or loss of skill or deterioration due to the aging process,
3355 emotional disorder or mental illness that would interfere with the
3356 backer's ability to operate. If the council approves any sale or change in
3357 ownership or control of a cannabis establishment license awarded to a
3358 social equity applicant during the three-year period following issuance
3359 of a final license, and such sale or change in ownership or control is
3360 made to anyone other than another qualifying social equity applicant,
3361 the cannabis establishment licensee shall be treated as a cannabis

3362 establishment licensee without social equity status beginning on the
3363 date of such approval and such cannabis licensee shall no longer be
3364 eligible to pay a reduced license renewal fee. Notwithstanding the
3365 requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate
3366 this section, prior to adopting such regulations and not later than
3367 October 1, 2021, the council shall issue policies and procedures to
3368 implement the provisions of this section that shall have the force and
3369 effect of law. The council shall post all policies and procedures on its
3370 Internet web site and submit such policies and procedures to the joint
3371 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
3372 matters relating to consumer protection and the Secretary of the State
3373 for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the
3374 effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure
3375 shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the
3376 policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or [sixty-
3377 three months from July 1, 2021] July 1, 2028. Any violation of such
3378 policies and procedures or any violation of such regulations related to
3379 the sale or change in ownership may be referred by the Social Equity
3380 Council to the department for administrative enforcement action, which
3381 may result in a fine of not more than ten million dollars or action against
3382 the establishment's license.

3383 Sec. 59. Subsection (d) of section 21a-420j of the 2026 supplement to
3384 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3385 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3386 (d) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection or
3387 subdivision (2) of subsection (k) of section 21a-420d, as amended by this
3388 act, a cultivator licensed under section 21a-420o, including the backer of
3389 such cultivator, shall not increase its ownership in an equity joint
3390 venture in excess of fifty per cent during the seven-year period after a
3391 license is issued by the department under this section.

3392 (2) A cultivator licensed under section 21a-420o who satisfies the
3393 criteria established in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection
3394 (b) of section 21a-420o, including the backer of such cultivator, shall not,

3395 except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (k) of section 21a-
3396 420d, as amended by this act, increase its ownership in an equity joint
3397 venture in excess of fifty per cent during the seven-year period
3398 beginning on the date on which a final license is issued by the
3399 department under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 21a-420o.

3400 Sec. 60. Subsection (b) of section 21a-420l of the general statutes is
3401 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3402 *1, 2026*):

3403 (b) To obtain approval from the commissioner to engage in expanded
3404 activity as described in subsection (a) of this section, a producer shall
3405 submit (1) a complete license expansion application on a form
3406 prescribed by the commissioner, (2) a medical cannabis preservation
3407 plan, to ensure against supply shortages of medical [marijuana]
3408 cannabis products, which shall be approved or denied at the
3409 commissioner's discretion, (3) payment of a conversion fee of three
3410 million dollars, provided, if the producer participates in at least two
3411 approved equity joint ventures as described in section 21a-420m, as
3412 amended by this act, such fee shall be one million five hundred
3413 thousand dollars, (4) a workforce development plan in accordance with
3414 requirements developed by the Social Equity Council, that has been
3415 reviewed and approved by the Social Equity Council in accordance with
3416 section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, and (5) (A) a contribution of
3417 five hundred thousand dollars to the Social Equity Council for the
3418 program established by the council in accordance with subsection (l) of
3419 section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, or (B) evidence of an
3420 agreement with a social equity partner pursuant to subsection (c) of this
3421 section.

3422 Sec. 61. Subsection (b) of section 21a-420m of the 2026 supplement to
3423 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3424 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3425 (b) The equity joint venture shall be in any cannabis establishment
3426 licensed business, other than a cultivator license, provided such equity

3427 joint venture is at least fifty per cent owned and controlled by an
3428 individual or individuals who meet, or the equity joint venture
3429 applicant is an individual who meets, the criteria established in
3430 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(51)] (54) of section 21a-420,
3431 as amended by this act.

3432 Sec. 62. Subsection (e) of section 21a-420m of the 2026 supplement to
3433 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3434 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3435 (e) [A] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (k) of
3436 section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, a producer, including the
3437 backer of such producer, shall not increase its ownership in an equity
3438 joint venture in excess of fifty per cent during the seven-year period after
3439 a license is issued by the department under this section.

3440 Sec. 63. Subsection (d) of section 21a-420n of the 2026 supplement to
3441 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3442 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3443 (d) A cultivator may sell, transfer or transport its cannabis to a
3444 cannabis establishment, research program or cannabis testing
3445 laboratory utilizing its own employees or a transporter. A cultivator
3446 shall not sell, transfer or deliver to consumers, qualifying patients, [or]
3447 qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers or qualifying out-of-state
3448 caregivers, directly or through a delivery service.

3449 Sec. 64. Subsections (f) and (g) of section 21a-420p of the 2026
3450 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
3451 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3452 (f) (1) A micro-cultivator may sell cannabis seedlings cultivated at its
3453 micro-cultivator establishment directly to consumers, excluding
3454 qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers
3455 and qualifying out-of-state caregivers, solely through delivery by either
3456 utilizing a delivery service or its own employees, subject to the
3457 requirements of subsection (c) of section 21a-420c, as amended by this

3458 act. No cannabis establishment other than a micro-cultivator shall sell
3459 cannabis seedlings to consumers, and no cannabis establishment other
3460 than a delivery service or a micro-cultivator utilizing its own employees
3461 shall deliver cannabis seedlings cultivated and sold by a micro-
3462 cultivator to consumers.

3463 (2) No micro-cultivator shall sell a cannabis seedling to a consumer
3464 unless:

3465 (A) The micro-cultivator cultivated the cannabis seedling in this state
3466 from seed or clone;

3467 (B) The cannabis seedling (i) has a standing height of not more than
3468 six inches measured from the base of the stem to the tallest point of the
3469 plant, (ii) does not contain any bud or flower, and (iii) has been tested
3470 for pesticides and heavy metals in accordance with the laboratory
3471 testing standards established in the policies and procedures issued, and
3472 final regulations adopted, by the commissioner pursuant to section 21a-
3473 421j, as amended by this act; and

3474 (C) A label or informational tag is affixed to the cannabis seedling
3475 disclosing the following in legible English, black lettering, Times New
3476 Roman font, flat regular typeface, on a contrasting background and in
3477 uniform size of not less than one-tenth of one inch, based on a capital
3478 letter "K":

3479 (i) The name of the micro-cultivator;

3480 (ii) A product description for the cannabis seedling;

3481 (iii) One of the following chemotypes anticipated after flowering: (I)
3482 "High THC, Low CBD"; (II) "Low THC, High CBD"; or (III) "50/50 THC
3483 and CBD";

3484 (iv) The results of the testing required under subparagraph (B)(iii) of
3485 this subdivision;

3486 (v) Directions for optimal care of the cannabis seedling;

3487 (vi) Unobscured symbols, in a size of not less than one-half inch by
3488 one-half inch and in a format approved by the commissioner, which
3489 symbols shall indicate that the cannabis seedling contains THC and is
3490 not legal or safe for individuals younger than twenty-one years of age;
3491 and

3492 (vii) A unique identifier generated by a cannabis analytic tracking
3493 system maintained by the department and used to track cannabis under
3494 the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by
3495 the commissioner pursuant to section 21a-421j, as amended by this act.

3496 (3) Notwithstanding section 21a-421j, as amended by this act, no
3497 cannabis seedling shall be required to be sold in child-resistant
3498 packaging.

3499 (4) No micro-cultivator shall knowingly sell more than three cannabis
3500 seedlings to a consumer in any six-month period.

3501 (5) No micro-cultivator shall accept any returned cannabis seedling.

3502 (g) (1) A micro-cultivator that has obtained a final license from the
3503 department pursuant to this section and maintains an exclusively
3504 indoor grow facility may submit an application to the department, in a
3505 form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, for a retailer or
3506 hybrid retailer endorsement to such final license under this subsection.
3507 Such endorsement, if issued, shall authorize the micro-cultivator to
3508 operate a retailer or hybrid retailer pursuant to this subsection. An
3509 applicant micro-cultivator shall submit a complete application for an
3510 endorsement under this subsection, along with the endorsement
3511 application fee, to the department not later than one year after the date
3512 on which the applicant micro-cultivator obtained a final micro-
3513 cultivator license from the department pursuant to this section or June
3514 30, 2026, whichever is later. The department shall not accept an
3515 application submitted pursuant to this subsection after such time period
3516 has expired. The amount of the application fee for an endorsement
3517 under this subsection shall be the same as the fee imposed to receive a
3518 final retailer license or a final hybrid retailer license set forth in

3519 subsections (c) and (d) of section 21a-420e. All application fees for an
3520 initial endorsement under this subsection shall be deposited in the
3521 consumer protection enforcement account established in section 21a-8a.
3522 The annual renewal fee for an endorsement issued under this subsection
3523 shall be the same as the renewal fee for a final retailer license or a final
3524 hybrid retailer license set forth in subsections (c) and (d) of section 21a-
3525 420e.

3526 (2) The department shall issue an endorsement to a micro-cultivator
3527 pursuant to this subsection if the micro-cultivator:

3528 (A) Submits a timely and complete endorsement application to the
3529 department, in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner;

3530 (B) Attests that the retailer or hybrid retailer created pursuant to the
3531 endorsement shall be operated in compliance with all requirements
3532 established in this chapter for a licensed retailer or a licensed hybrid
3533 retailer; and

3534 (C) Acknowledges and attests that such micro-cultivator shall not
3535 engage in any outdoor cultivation of cannabis.

3536 (3) Each micro-cultivator that is issued an endorsement under this
3537 subsection shall have twenty-four months from the date such
3538 endorsement is issued to (A) satisfy the requirements established in
3539 section 21a-420g, as amended by this act, for a retailer or hybrid retailer
3540 that has been issued a final license, and (B) seek and obtain a written
3541 statement from the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the
3542 commissioner, confirming that such micro-cultivator satisfies such
3543 requirements and is authorized to engage in the activities of a retailer or
3544 hybrid retailer.

3545 (4) An endorsement issued pursuant to this subsection shall expire
3546 and shall not be eligible for reapplication or renewal if the micro-
3547 cultivator (A) fails to satisfy the requirements established in subdivision
3548 (3) of this subsection, or (B) allows such endorsement to lapse.

3549 (5) The facility of a retailer or hybrid retailer established pursuant to
3550 an endorsement issued pursuant to this subsection shall be located (A)
3551 on the same premises as the micro-cultivator, [or] (B) on a tract of land
3552 or parcel that abuts [such] the premises of the micro-cultivator or is
3553 located within one hundred feet of such premises measured from the
3554 point on such tract of land or parcel that is closest to such premises, or
3555 (C) on a tract of land or parcel that abuts the premises of the micro-
3556 cultivator or is located within the same disproportionately impacted
3557 area as such premises.

3558 (6) Upon receipt of a written statement from the department as set
3559 forth in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (3) of this subsection, the
3560 micro-cultivator shall:

3561 (A) (i) In the case of a retailer endorsement, be authorized to sell
3562 cannabis cultivated indoors by the micro-cultivator to consumers, or (ii)
3563 in the case of a hybrid retailer endorsement, be authorized to sell (I)
3564 cannabis cultivated indoors by the micro-cultivator to consumers, and
3565 (II) medical [marijuana] cannabis products to qualifying patients, [and]
3566 qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state
3567 caregivers;

3568 (B) Acknowledge and agree that such micro-cultivator is not eligible
3569 to expand to a cultivator license, as provided in this section;

3570 (C) Maintain the retailer's or hybrid-retailer's activities and facility in
3571 accordance with the requirements established in this chapter, chapter
3572 420f and the regulations, policies and procedures adopted or issued
3573 pursuant to said chapters, as applicable; and

3574 (D) Acknowledge and agree that in the event that an administrative
3575 agency or court of competent jurisdiction issues a suspension,
3576 revocation, cease and desist order or other order halting the micro-
3577 cultivator's operations, the micro-cultivator shall cease all public retailer
3578 or hybrid-retailer activities associated with the retailer or hybrid retailer
3579 endorsement issued pursuant to this subsection.

3580 (7) A micro-cultivator that is issued an endorsement under this
3581 subsection may (A) in the case of a retailer endorsement, sell cannabis
3582 cultivated by the micro-cultivator directly to consumers by utilizing a
3583 delivery service or its own employees, subject to the provisions of
3584 subsection (c) of section 21a-420c, as amended by this act, provided such
3585 micro-cultivator shall exclusively sell cannabis cultivated by such
3586 micro-cultivator, and (B) in the case of a hybrid retailer endorsement, (i)
3587 sell medical [marijuana] cannabis products directly to qualifying
3588 patients and caregivers by utilizing a delivery service, subject to the
3589 provisions of subsection (c) of section 21a-420c, as amended by this act,
3590 (ii) sell medical cannabis products directly to qualifying out-of-state
3591 patients and qualifying out-of-state caregivers, and (iii) sell cannabis
3592 cultivated by such micro-cultivator directly to consumers, by utilizing a
3593 delivery service or its own employees, subject to the provisions of
3594 subsection (c) of section 21a-420c, as amended by this act.

3595 (8) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a micro-cultivator
3596 with an active endorsement issued under this subsection shall not
3597 exceed twenty-five thousand square feet of grow space and shall not be
3598 eligible to convert to a cultivator unless the micro-cultivator
3599 permanently surrenders such endorsement and ceases all retailer and
3600 hybrid retailer activities at the cannabis establishment.

3601 (9) An endorsement issued under this subsection shall not impact any
3602 right a micro-cultivator may have to create an equity joint venture.

3603 Sec. 65. Section 21a-420q of the 2026 supplement to the general
3604 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3605 (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

3606 The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
3607 provisions of chapter 54, to establish the maximum grow space
3608 permitted by a cultivator and micro-cultivator. In adopting such
3609 regulations, the commissioner shall seek to ensure an adequate supply
3610 of cannabis for the market. Notwithstanding the requirements of
3611 sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate this section, prior

3612 to adopting such regulations, the commissioner shall issue policies and
3613 procedures to implement the provisions of this section that shall have
3614 the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies and
3615 procedures on the department's Internet web site and submit such
3616 policies and procedures to the joint standing committee of the General
3617 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection
3618 and the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at
3619 least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure.
3620 Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the
3621 earlier of either the adoption of the policy or procedure as a final
3622 regulation under section 4-172 or [sixty-three months from July 1, 2021]
3623 July 1, 2028.

3624 Sec. 66. Section 21a-420r of the 2026 supplement to the general
3625 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3626 (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3627 (a) [On and after July 1, 2021, the] The department may issue or renew
3628 a license for a person to be a retailer. No person may act as a retailer or
3629 represent that such person is a retailer unless such person has obtained
3630 a license from the department pursuant to this section.

3631 (b) A retailer may obtain cannabis from a cultivator, micro-cultivator,
3632 producer, product packager, food and beverage manufacturer, product
3633 manufacturer or transporter or an undeliverable return from a delivery
3634 service. A retailer may sell, transport or transfer cannabis or cannabis
3635 products to a cannabis establishment, cannabis testing laboratory or
3636 research program. A retailer may sell cannabis to a consumer or research
3637 program. A retailer may not conduct sales of medical [marijuana]
3638 cannabis products, except as provided in subsection (e) of this section,
3639 nor offer discounts or other inducements to qualifying patients, [or]
3640 qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers or qualifying out-of-state
3641 caregivers. A retailer shall not gift or transfer cannabis at no cost to a
3642 consumer as part of a commercial transaction.

3643 (c) Retailers shall maintain a secure location, in a manner approved

3644 by the commissioner, at the licensee's premises where cannabis that is
3645 unable to be delivered by an employee or delivery service may be
3646 returned to the retailer. Such secure cannabis return location shall meet
3647 specifications set forth by the commissioner and published on the
3648 department's Internet web site or included in regulations adopted by
3649 the department.

3650 (d) A retailer may deliver cannabis through a delivery service or by
3651 utilizing its own employees, subject to the provisions of subsection (c)
3652 of section 21a-420c, as amended by this act.

3653 (e) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter and chapter
3654 420f, and except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a
3655 retailer may sell the following palliative use cannabis products to
3656 consumers:

3657 (A) Cannabis concentrates;

3658 (B) Topical treatments, excluding transdermal patches;

3659 (C) Creams;

3660 (D) Tablets and capsules;

3661 (E) Rosins; and

3662 (F) Products intended for sublingual absorption.

3663 (2) Producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product packagers,
3664 product manufacturers and food and beverage manufacturers shall
3665 reserve the palliative use cannabis products set forth in subdivision (1)
3666 of this subsection for sale exclusively to dispensary facilities and hybrid
3667 retailers for at least fourteen days after such palliative use cannabis
3668 products are released to the market.

3669 (3) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
3670 chapter 54, to allow sales of additional palliative use cannabis products
3671 to consumers in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this

3672 subsection.

3673 [(e)] (f) Manufacturer hemp products, as defined in section 22-61l, as
3674 amended by this act, may be sold within a retailer facility, provided such
3675 manufacturer hemp products are:

3676 (1) Stored separately from cannabis and cannabis products;

3677 (2) Separated, by a physical separation, from cannabis and cannabis
3678 products in any display area;

3679 (3) Displayed with signage approved by the department;

3680 (4) Tested by a laboratory that meets the standards for accreditation
3681 and testing, and sampling methods, set forth for an independent testing
3682 laboratory in section 22-61m, as amended by this act, which laboratory
3683 may be located outside of this state;

3684 (5) Clearly labeled to distinguish the product as (A) a manufacturer
3685 hemp product, (B) subject to different testing standards than cannabis,
3686 and (C) not cannabis or a cannabis product; and

3687 (6) Sold in accordance with this chapter, chapter 424 and any
3688 regulations adopted pursuant to said chapters.

3689 (g) No retailer shall retain any personal data the retailer obtains from
3690 a consumer for the purposes of age verification for longer than twenty-
3691 four hours without the consumer's express written consent.

3692 Sec. 67. Subsections (c) to (g), inclusive, of section 21a-420s of the 2026
3693 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
3694 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3695 (c) In addition to conducting general retail sales, a hybrid retailer may
3696 sell cannabis and medical marijuana products to qualifying patients and
3697 caregivers. Any cannabis or medical marijuana products sold to
3698 qualifying patients and caregivers shall be [dispensed by a licensed
3699 pharmacist and shall be] recorded in the electronic prescription drug

3700 monitoring program, established pursuant to section 21a-254, in real-
3701 time or immediately upon completion of the transaction, unless not
3702 reasonably feasible for a specific transaction, but in no case longer than
3703 one hour after completion of the transaction. Only a licensed pharmacist
3704 or dispensary technician under the direction of a licensed pharmacist
3705 may upload [or access data in the prescription drug monitoring] data to
3706 such program, except such upload may be accomplished by way of an
3707 automated upload from the hybrid retailer's point-of-sale system. A
3708 licensed pharmacist shall conduct a daily audit of the data uploaded to
3709 such program pursuant to this subsection. All other authorized
3710 activities of the hybrid retailer, including, but not limited to, all such
3711 activities performed in connection with the sale, handling or
3712 management of cannabis or medical marijuana products, may be
3713 performed by a licensed pharmacist, dispensary technician or other
3714 registered employee of the hybrid retailer.

3715 (d) (1) A hybrid retailer shall [maintain] ensure that a licensed
3716 pharmacist [on premises for at least eight consecutive hours per
3717 calendar week] is available, either in-person or remotely, when the
3718 hybrid [retail] retailer location is open to the public or to qualifying
3719 patients and caregivers. [At all times while a hybrid retailer location is
3720 open to the public and a licensed pharmacist is not physically present
3721 on premises and available for qualifying patient and caregiver
3722 consultations, the] The hybrid retailer shall ensure that a licensed
3723 pharmacist is readily available to [(A)] provide telehealth consultations
3724 for qualifying patients and caregivers [, and (B) conduct remote order
3725 entry verification in accordance with regulations adopted by the
3726 commissioner pursuant to section 20-576, which remote order entry
3727 verification shall only be conducted by a licensed pharmacist in
3728 compliance with all remote order entry verification requirements
3729 established in regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to
3730 section 20-576] and, upon request by qualifying patients or caregivers,
3731 in-person consultations for qualifying patients or caregivers. Nothing in
3732 this subdivision shall be construed to require a hybrid retailer to
3733 maintain a licensed pharmacist at the hybrid retailer location for more

3734 than thirty-five hours per week either in-person or remotely.

3735 (2) A hybrid retailer that offers telehealth consultations with a
3736 licensed pharmacist shall (A) [employ such pharmacist for at least
3737 twenty hours per calendar week, (B)] maintain technology that is
3738 capable of facilitating such telehealth consultations, and [(C)] (B) make
3739 such telehealth consultations readily available and accessible to
3740 qualifying patients and caregivers, including, but not limited to, by
3741 telephone from a remote location outside of the hybrid retailer location
3742 and from the private consultation space required under subsection (e)
3743 of this section.

3744 (3) Each hybrid retailer shall conspicuously post and maintain a sign
3745 at the main entrance of the hybrid retailer location, which sign shall (A)
3746 be at least twelve inches in height and eighteen inches in width, (B)
3747 incorporate lettering in a size and style that is clear and legible, and (C)
3748 state the name of the licensed pharmacist who is available for qualifying
3749 patient and caregiver consultations either in-person or through
3750 telehealth.

3751 (4) Each hybrid retailer shall conspicuously post and maintain a sign
3752 at each register or comparable point of sale within the hybrid retailer
3753 location, and on any Internet web site maintained by such hybrid
3754 retailer, which sign shall (A) be at least eight inches in height and ten
3755 inches in width, (B) incorporate lettering in a size and style that is clear
3756 and legible, and (C) state "Pharmacist available for consultation" in a
3757 clear and legible manner.

3758 [(5) Each licensed pharmacist who consults with qualifying patients
3759 or caregivers shall annually complete not less than five contact hours of
3760 continuing professional education, as set forth in section 20-600, related
3761 to the cannabis industry, the pharmacy laws of this state or the
3762 treatment of debilitating medical conditions, as defined in section 21a-
3763 408. Such contact hours shall be included in, and not be in addition to,
3764 the fifteen contact hours required under section 20-600.]

3765 (5) No registered employee of a hybrid retailer shall sell any cannabis

3766 or medical marijuana product to a qualifying patient or caregiver, unless
3767 such registered employee has completed at least (A) one hour of
3768 education concerning the types, availability, dosage and methods of
3769 administration of cannabis products, (B) one hour of education
3770 concerning professional ethics, (C) one hour of education concerning
3771 state and federal laws and regulations concerning patient privacy, and
3772 (D) one hour of education concerning developments in the use of
3773 medical marijuana products.

3774 (e) The hybrid retailer location shall include a private consultation
3775 space for pharmacists to meet with qualifying patients and caregivers.
3776 Each hybrid retailer shall conspicuously display, on the exterior of the
3777 hybrid retailer location, a symbol that denotes the sale of medical
3778 marijuana products, which symbol shall be in a form and manner
3779 prescribed by the commissioner and posted on the department's
3780 Internet web site. Additionally, the hybrid retailer premises shall
3781 accommodate an expedited method of entry that allows for priority
3782 entrance into the premises for qualifying patients and caregivers.

3783 (f) Hybrid retailers shall maintain a secure location, in a manner
3784 approved by the commissioner, at the licensee's premises where
3785 cannabis that is unable to be delivered may be returned to the hybrid
3786 retailer. Such secure cannabis return location shall meet specifications
3787 set forth by the commissioner and published on the department's
3788 Internet web site or included in regulations adopted by the department.

3789 (g) Cannabis [dispensed] sold to a qualifying patient or caregiver that
3790 is unable to be delivered and is returned by the delivery service to the
3791 hybrid retailer shall be returned to the licensee inventory system and
3792 removed from the prescription drug monitoring program not later than
3793 forty-eight hours after receipt of the cannabis from the delivery service.

3794 Sec. 68. Section 21a-420s of the 2026 supplement to the general
3795 statutes, as amended by section 67 of this act, is repealed and the
3796 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3797 (a) The department may issue or renew a license for a hybrid retailer.

3798 No person may act as a hybrid retailer or represent that such person is
3799 a hybrid retailer unless such person has obtained a license from the
3800 department pursuant to this section.

3801 (b) A hybrid retailer may obtain cannabis from a cultivator, micro-
3802 cultivator, producer, product packager, food and beverage
3803 manufacturer, product manufacturer or transporter. In addition to the
3804 activities authorized under section 21a-420t, as amended by this act, a
3805 hybrid retailer may sell, transport or transfer cannabis to a cannabis
3806 establishment, cannabis testing laboratory or research program. A
3807 hybrid retailer may sell cannabis products to a consumer or research
3808 program. A hybrid retailer shall not gift or transfer cannabis at no cost
3809 to a consumer, qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state patient,
3810 caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver as part of a commercial
3811 transaction.

3812 (c) In addition to conducting general retail sales, a hybrid retailer may
3813 sell cannabis and medical [marijuana] cannabis products to qualifying
3814 patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and
3815 qualifying out-of-state caregivers. Any cannabis or medical [marijuana]
3816 cannabis products sold to qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-
3817 state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers shall be
3818 recorded in the electronic prescription drug monitoring program,
3819 established pursuant to section 21a-254, in real-time or immediately
3820 upon completion of the transaction, unless not reasonably feasible for a
3821 specific transaction, but in no case longer than one hour after completion
3822 of the transaction. Only a licensed pharmacist or dispensary technician
3823 under the direction of a licensed pharmacist may upload data to such
3824 program, except such upload may be accomplished by way of an
3825 automated upload from the hybrid retailer's point-of-sale system. A
3826 licensed pharmacist shall conduct a daily audit of the data uploaded to
3827 such program pursuant to this subsection. All other authorized
3828 activities of the hybrid retailer, including, but not limited to, all such
3829 activities performed in connection with the sale, handling or
3830 management of cannabis or medical [marijuana] cannabis products,
3831 may be performed by a licensed pharmacist, dispensary technician or

3832 other registered employee of the hybrid retailer.

3833 (d) (1) A hybrid retailer shall ensure that a licensed pharmacist is
3834 available, either in-person or remotely, when the hybrid retailer location
3835 is open to the public or to qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-
3836 state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers. The
3837 hybrid retailer shall ensure that a licensed pharmacist is readily
3838 available to provide telehealth consultations for qualifying patients,
3839 [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-
3840 state caregivers and upon request by qualifying patients, [or] qualifying
3841 out-of-state patients, caregivers or qualifying out-of-state caregivers, in-
3842 person consultations for qualifying patients, [or] qualifying out-of-state
3843 patients, caregivers or qualifying out-of-state caregivers. Nothing in this
3844 subdivision shall be construed to require a hybrid retailer to maintain a
3845 licensed pharmacist at the hybrid retailer location for more than thirty-
3846 five hours per week either in-person or remotely.

3847 (2) A hybrid retailer that offers telehealth consultations with a
3848 licensed pharmacist shall (A) maintain technology that is capable of
3849 facilitating such telehealth consultations, and (B) make such telehealth
3850 consultations readily available and accessible to qualifying patients,
3851 [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-
3852 state caregivers, including, but not limited to, by telephone from a
3853 remote location outside of the hybrid retailer location and from the
3854 private consultation space required under subsection (e) of this section.

3855 (3) Each hybrid retailer shall conspicuously post and maintain a sign
3856 at the main entrance of the hybrid retailer location, which sign shall (A)
3857 be at least twelve inches in height and eighteen inches in width, (B)
3858 incorporate lettering in a size and style that is clear and legible, and (C)
3859 state the name of the licensed pharmacist who is available for qualifying
3860 patient, [and] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver and qualifying
3861 out-of-state caregiver consultations either in-person or through
3862 telehealth.

3863 (4) Each hybrid retailer shall conspicuously post and maintain a sign

3864 at each register or comparable point of sale within the hybrid retailer
3865 location, and on any Internet web site maintained by such hybrid
3866 retailer, which sign shall (A) be at least eight inches in height and ten
3867 inches in width, (B) incorporate lettering in a size and style that is clear
3868 and legible, and (C) state "Pharmacist available for consultation" in a
3869 clear and legible manner.

3870 (5) No registered employee of a hybrid retailer shall sell any cannabis
3871 or medical [marijuana] cannabis product to a qualifying patient, [or]
3872 qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state
3873 caregiver, unless such registered employee has completed at least (A)
3874 one hour of education concerning the types, availability, dosage and
3875 methods of administration of cannabis products, (B) one hour of
3876 education concerning professional ethics, (C) one hour of education
3877 concerning state and federal laws and regulations concerning patient
3878 privacy, and (D) one hour of education concerning developments in the
3879 use of medical [marijuana] cannabis products.

3880 (e) The hybrid retailer location shall include a private consultation
3881 space for pharmacists to meet with qualifying patients, [and] qualifying
3882 out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers.
3883 Each hybrid retailer shall conspicuously display, on the exterior of the
3884 hybrid retailer location, a symbol that denotes the sale of medical
3885 [marijuana] cannabis products, which symbol shall be in a form and
3886 manner prescribed by the commissioner and posted on the department's
3887 Internet web site. Additionally, the hybrid retailer premises shall
3888 accommodate an expedited method of entry that allows for priority
3889 entrance into the premises for qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-
3890 of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers.

3891 (f) Hybrid retailers shall maintain a secure location, in a manner
3892 approved by the commissioner, at the licensee's premises where
3893 cannabis that is unable to be delivered may be returned to the hybrid
3894 retailer. Such secure cannabis return location shall meet specifications
3895 set forth by the commissioner and published on the department's
3896 Internet web site or included in regulations adopted by the department.

3897 (g) Cannabis sold to a qualifying patient or caregiver that is unable to
3898 be delivered and is returned by the delivery service to the hybrid retailer
3899 shall be returned to the licensee inventory system and removed from the
3900 prescription drug monitoring program not later than forty-eight hours
3901 after receipt of the cannabis from the delivery service.

3902 (h) A hybrid retailer may not convert its license to a retailer license.
3903 To obtain a retailer license, a hybrid retailer shall apply through the
3904 lottery application process. A hybrid retailer may convert to a
3905 dispensary facility, provided the hybrid retailer complies with all
3906 applicable provisions of chapter 420f and has received written approval
3907 from the department.

3908 (i) A retailer may apply to the department to convert its license to a
3909 hybrid retailer license, without applying through the lottery application
3910 system. To convert a retailer license to a hybrid retailer license, a retailer
3911 shall submit a complete application to the department, in a form and
3912 manner prescribed by the commissioner. Prior to issuing a hybrid
3913 retailer license pursuant to this section, the department shall conduct an
3914 inspection of the converting retailer establishment. Upon a satisfactory
3915 inspection, the department shall deactivate the converting retailer
3916 license and issue a new hybrid retailer license to the applicant.

3917 (j) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter and chapter
3918 420f, and except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a
3919 hybrid retailer may sell the following palliative use cannabis products
3920 to consumers:

3921 (A) Cannabis concentrates;

3922 (B) Topical treatments, excluding transdermal patches;

3923 (C) Creams;

3924 (D) Tablets and capsules;

3925 (E) Rosins; and

3926 (F) Products intended for sublingual absorption.

3927 (2) Producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product packagers,
3928 product manufacturers and food and beverage manufacturers shall
3929 reserve the palliative use cannabis products set forth in subdivision (1)
3930 of this subsection for sale exclusively to dispensary facilities and hybrid
3931 retailers for at least fourteen days after such palliative use cannabis
3932 products are released to the market, and a hybrid retailer shall reserve
3933 such palliative use cannabis products for sale exclusively to qualifying
3934 patients, qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-
3935 of-state caregivers for at least fourteen days after the hybrid retailer
3936 receives each shipment of such palliative use cannabis products.

3937 (3) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
3938 chapter 54, to allow sales of additional palliative use cannabis products
3939 to consumers in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this
3940 subsection.

3941 [(j)] (k) Manufacturer hemp products, as defined in section 22-61l, as
3942 amended by this act, may be sold within a hybrid retailer facility,
3943 provided such manufacturer hemp products are:

3944 (1) Stored separately from cannabis and cannabis products;

3945 (2) Separated, by a physical separation, from cannabis and cannabis
3946 products in any display area;

3947 (3) Displayed with signage approved by the department;

3948 (4) Tested by a laboratory that meets the standards for accreditation
3949 and testing, and sampling methods, set forth for an independent testing
3950 laboratory in section 22-61m, as amended by this act, which laboratory
3951 may be located outside of this state;

3952 (5) Clearly labeled to distinguish the product as (A) a manufacturer
3953 hemp product, (B) subject to different testing standards than cannabis,
3954 and (C) not cannabis or a cannabis product;

3955 (6) Sold in accordance with this chapter, chapter 424 and any
3956 regulations adopted pursuant to said chapters; and

3957 (7) Derived from hemp grown by a United States Department of
3958 Agriculture hemp producer licensee under an approved state or tribal
3959 hemp production plan.

3960 (l) No hybrid retailer shall retain any personal data the hybrid retailer
3961 obtains from a consumer, qualifying patient, qualifying out-of-state
3962 patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver for the purposes
3963 of age verification for longer than twenty-four hours without the
3964 consumer's, qualifying patient's, qualifying out-of-state patient's,
3965 caregiver's or qualifying out-of-state caregiver's express written
3966 consent.

3967 Sec. 69. Subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of section 21a-420t of the 2026
3968 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
3969 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3970 (a) A dispensary facility may apply to the department, on a form and
3971 in a manner prescribed by the commissioner, to convert its license to a
3972 hybrid retailer license [on or after September 1, 2021,] without applying
3973 through the lottery application system. The license conversion
3974 application shall require a dispensary facility to submit to, and obtain
3975 approval from the department for, a detailed medical preservation plan
3976 for how [it] the dispensary facility will prioritize sales and access to
3977 medical [marijuana] cannabis products for qualifying patients and
3978 qualifying out-of-state patients, including, but not limited to, managing
3979 customer traffic flow, preventing supply shortages, providing delivery
3980 services and ensuring appropriate staffing levels.

3981 (b) [After October 1, 2021, qualifying] Qualifying patients and
3982 qualifying out-of-state patients shall not be required to designate a
3983 dispensary facility or hybrid retailer as [its] their exclusive location to
3984 purchase cannabis or medical [marijuana] cannabis products, nor shall
3985 the department require any future change of designated dispensary
3986 facility applications. [If all dispensary facilities demonstrate to the

3987 department's satisfaction that they are adhering to the real-time upload
3988 requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section prior to October
3989 1, 2021, the commissioner may eliminate the requirement for designated
3990 dispensary facilities prior to said date.]

3991 (c) [On and after September 1, 2021, dispensary] Dispensary facilities
3992 and hybrid retailers shall [be required to] perform real-time uploads to
3993 the prescription drug monitoring program. Any cannabis or medical
3994 [marijuana] cannabis products sold to qualifying patients, [or]
3995 qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers or qualifying out-of-state
3996 caregivers shall be dispensed by a licensed pharmacist and shall be
3997 recorded into the prescription drug monitoring program, established
3998 pursuant to section 21a-254, in real-time or immediately upon
3999 completion of the transaction, unless not reasonably feasible for a
4000 specific transaction, but in no case longer than one hour after completion
4001 of the transaction.

4002 (d) A dispensary facility or hybrid retailer may apply to the
4003 department, in a form and in a manner prescribed by the commissioner,
4004 to provide delivery services through a delivery service or utilizing its
4005 own employees, subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of section 21a-
4006 420c, as amended by this act, to qualifying patients, caregivers, research
4007 program subjects, as defined in section 21a-408, as amended by this act,
4008 and hospice and other inpatient care facilities licensed by the
4009 Department of Public Health pursuant to chapter 368v that have a
4010 protocol for the handling and distribution of cannabis that has been
4011 approved by the Department of Consumer Protection. A dispensary
4012 facility or hybrid retailer may deliver cannabis or medical [marijuana]
4013 cannabis products only from its own inventory to qualifying patients
4014 and caregivers. If such application is approved by the commissioner, the
4015 dispensary facility or hybrid retailer may commence delivery services,
4016 [on and after January 1, 2022, provided the commissioner may authorize
4017 dispensary facilities or hybrid retailers to commence delivery services
4018 prior to January 1, 2022, upon forty-five days advance written notice,
4019 published on the department's Internet web site.]

4020 Sec. 70. Subsection (b) of section 21a-420u of the 2026 supplement to
4021 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
4022 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

4023 (b) Any equity joint venture created under this section shall be
4024 created for the development of a cannabis establishment, other than a
4025 cultivator, provided such equity joint venture is at least fifty per cent
4026 owned and controlled by an individual or individuals who meet, or the
4027 equity joint venture applicant is an individual who meets, the criteria
4028 established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(51)] (54) of
4029 section 21a-420, as amended by this act.

4030 Sec. 71. Subsection (e) of section 21a-420u of the 2026 supplement to
4031 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
4032 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4033 (e) [A] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (k) of
4034 section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, a dispensary facility, including
4035 the backers of such dispensary facility, shall not increase its ownership
4036 in an equity joint venture in excess of fifty per cent during the seven-
4037 year period after a license is issued by the department under this section.

4038 Sec. 72. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 21a-420z of the 2026
4039 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
4040 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

4041 (c) A delivery service may (1) deliver cannabis from a micro-
4042 cultivator, retailer, or hybrid retailer directly to a consumer, and (2)
4043 deliver cannabis and medical [marijuana] cannabis products from a
4044 hybrid retailer or dispensary facility directly to a qualifying patient,
4045 caregiver, or hospice or other inpatient care facility licensed by the
4046 Department of Public Health pursuant to chapter 368v that has
4047 protocols for the handling and distribution of cannabis that have been
4048 approved by the Department of Consumer Protection. A delivery
4049 service may not store or maintain control of cannabis or medical
4050 [marijuana] cannabis products for more than twenty-four hours
4051 between the point when a consumer, qualifying patient, caregiver or

4052 facility places an order, until the time that the cannabis or medical
4053 [marijuana] cannabis product is delivered to such consumer, qualifying
4054 patient, caregiver or facility.

4055 (d) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a
4056 transporter may deliver cannabis between cannabis establishments,
4057 research programs and cannabis testing laboratories and shall not store
4058 or maintain control of cannabis for more than twenty-four hours from
4059 the time the transporter obtains the cannabis from a cannabis
4060 establishment, research program or cannabis testing laboratory until the
4061 time such cannabis is delivered to the destination.

4062 (2) (A) A transporter may expand the transporter's authorized
4063 activities to store, maintain and handle cannabis in accordance with the
4064 provisions of this subsection, provided such transporter:

4065 (i) Possesses each unit of cannabis for a period not to exceed [thirty]
4066 one hundred eighty days beginning on the date on which the
4067 transporter receives such cannabis;

4068 (ii) Complies with all security requirements established pursuant to
4069 section 21a-421l and the policies, procedures and regulations adopted
4070 pursuant to section 21a-421j, as amended by this act;

4071 (iii) Attests that such transporter shall not open or remove any
4072 cannabis from individual child-resistant packaging, provided nothing
4073 in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit a transporter from
4074 consolidating or separating bulk packaged cannabis for the purposes of
4075 commercial distribution;

4076 (iv) Attests that such transporter shall comply with all requirements
4077 set forth in section 21a-421n, as amended by this act, and all policies,
4078 procedures and regulations adopted pursuant to section 21a-421j, as
4079 amended by this act, for the electronic tracking system concerning the
4080 receipt, storage, repackaging and distribution of cannabis;

4081 (v) Pays to the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the

4082 commissioner, a one-time expansion authorization payment of five
4083 thousand dollars, to be deposited in the consumer protection
4084 enforcement account established in section 21a-8a;

4085 (vi) Notifies the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the
4086 commissioner, at least thirty days before the date on which the
4087 transporter intends to commence the storage of cannabis for a period
4088 exceeding twenty-four hours; and

4089 (vii) Receives written confirmation from the department that the
4090 transporter meets the security requirements described in subparagraph
4091 (A)(ii) of this subdivision.

4092 (B) The department shall take all reasonable efforts to schedule an
4093 inspection of the cannabis establishment facility not later than sixty days
4094 after the department receives an application for transporter expansion
4095 pursuant to this subdivision. Upon completion of such inspection, the
4096 department shall promptly provide to the transporter (i) written
4097 confirmation of compliance with the security requirements set forth in
4098 subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision, or (ii) notice of noncompliance
4099 with the security requirements set forth in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this
4100 subdivision.

4101 (C) A transporter that expands the transporter's authorized activities
4102 under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall (i) comply with all
4103 provisions of this chapter, and all regulations, policies and procedures
4104 prescribed pursuant to this chapter, concerning product packagers, and
4105 (ii) not open or remove any cannabis from individual child-resistant
4106 packaging, provided nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to
4107 prohibit a transporter from consolidating or separating bulk packaged
4108 cannabis for the purposes of commercial distribution on a scale that is
4109 greater than commercial distribution on an individual and final
4110 packaging basis.

4111 (D) In the event of a conflict between any provision of this chapter, or
4112 any regulation, policy or procedure prescribed pursuant to this chapter,
4113 concerning transporters and any such provision, regulation, policy or

4114 procedure concerning product packagers, the provision, regulation,
4115 policy or procedure imposing the more stringent public health and
4116 safety standard shall prevail.

4117 Sec. 73. Subsection (e) of section 21a-420z of the 2026 supplement to
4118 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
4119 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

4120 (e) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
4121 chapter 54, to implement the provisions of RERACA. Notwithstanding
4122 the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to
4123 effectuate the purposes of RERACA and protect public health and
4124 safety, prior to adopting such regulations the commissioner shall issue
4125 policies and procedures to implement the provisions of this section that
4126 shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all
4127 policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site, and
4128 submit such policies and procedures to the joint standing committee of
4129 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
4130 consumer protection and the Secretary of the State for posting on the
4131 eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of
4132 any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer
4133 be effective upon the earlier of either adoption of such policy or
4134 procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or [sixty-three
4135 months from July 1, 2021] July 1, 2028. The commissioner shall issue
4136 policies and procedures, and thereafter adopt final regulations: [] (1)
4137 For the purpose of ensuring the public health, safety and welfare,
4138 establishing storage, recall and other requirements for a transporter that
4139 expands its authorized activities as set forth in subdivision (2) of
4140 subsection (d) of this section; and (2) requiring that [: (1) The] (A) the
4141 delivery service and transporter meet certain security requirements
4142 related to the storage, handling and transport of cannabis, the vehicles
4143 employed, the conduct of employees and agents, and the
4144 documentation that shall be maintained by the delivery service,
4145 transporter and its drivers, [; (2)] (B) a delivery service that delivers
4146 cannabis to consumers maintain an online interface that verifies the age
4147 of consumers ordering cannabis for delivery and meets certain

4148 specifications and data security standards, [;] and [(3)] (C) a delivery
4149 service that delivers cannabis to consumers, qualifying patients or
4150 caregivers, and all employees and agents of such licensee, to verify the
4151 identity of the qualifying patient, caregiver or consumer and the age of
4152 the consumer upon delivery of cannabis to the end consumer, qualifying
4153 patient or caregiver, in a manner acceptable to the commissioner. The
4154 individual placing the cannabis order shall be the individual accepting
4155 delivery of the cannabis except, in the case of a qualifying patient, the
4156 individual accepting the delivery may be the caregiver of such
4157 qualifying patient.

4158 Sec. 74. Subparagraph (A) of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of
4159 section 21a-420aa of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is
4160 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
4161 *1, 2026*):

4162 (A) Such change in ownership or control is allowed under (i) section
4163 21a-420g, as amended by this act, or 21a-420h, as amended by this act,
4164 and (ii) any regulation adopted, or policy or procedure issued, pursuant
4165 to section 21a-420g, as amended by this act, or 21a-420h, as amended by
4166 this act; and

4167 Sec. 75. Subsections (b) to (g), inclusive, of section 21a-420bb of the
4168 2026 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following
4169 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4170 (b) During the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending March 31,
4171 2027, the department shall issue a provisional micro-cultivator license
4172 to a social equity applicant pursuant to this section:

4173 (1) If the social equity applicant meets the eligibility criteria
4174 established in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section;

4175 (2) If during the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending December
4176 31, 2026, the social equity applicant submits to the department, in a form
4177 and manner prescribed by the commissioner:

4178 (A) A completed micro-cultivator license application and other
4179 documentation required to determine eligibility as set forth in
4180 subsections (e) to (l), inclusive, of section 21a-420g;

4181 (B) A written statement by the social equity applicant disclosing
4182 whether any change occurred in the ownership or control of the social
4183 equity applicant after the Social Equity Council verified that the
4184 applicant met the criteria for a social equity applicant pursuant to
4185 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-420o; and

4186 (C) The application fee required under subdivision (1) of subsection
4187 (c) of this section; and

4188 (3) If any change described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of
4189 this subsection has occurred:

4190 (A) Such change in ownership or control is allowed under (i) section
4191 21a-420g, as amended by this act, or 21a-420h, as amended by this act,
4192 and (ii) any regulation adopted, or policy or procedure issued, pursuant
4193 to section 21a-420g, as amended by this act, or 21a-420h, as amended by
4194 this act; and

4195 (B) Pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, (i) the Social Equity
4196 Council has determined that the social equity applicant continues to
4197 meet the criteria for a social equity applicant, and (ii) the department
4198 has received a written notice from the Social Equity Council affirming
4199 that the Social Equity Council has determined that the social equity
4200 applicant continues to meet the criteria for a social equity applicant.

4201 (c) (1) A social equity applicant that has not obtained a provisional
4202 cultivator license under subsection (a) of section 21a-420o and submits
4203 a micro-cultivator license application pursuant to subsection (b) of this
4204 section shall submit to the department an application fee in the amount
4205 of five hundred thousand dollars. The three-million-dollar fee paid by
4206 the social equity applicant pursuant to section 21a-420o to receive a
4207 provisional cultivator license shall be considered the application fee to
4208 convert to a micro-cultivator license pursuant to this section. All

4209 application fees collected pursuant to this subdivision shall be deposited
4210 in the consumer protection enforcement account established in section
4211 21a-8a.

4212 (2) The fee to renew a final micro-cultivator license issued pursuant
4213 to this section shall be the same as the fee to renew a final micro-
4214 cultivator license as set forth in section 21a-420e. All renewal fees
4215 collected pursuant to this subdivision shall be paid to the State
4216 Treasurer and credited to the General Fund.

4217 (d) If any change described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of
4218 subsection (b) of this section has occurred, the Social Equity Council
4219 shall (1) determine whether the social equity applicant continues to meet
4220 the criteria for a social equity applicant, and (2) submit to the
4221 department, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, a
4222 written notice disclosing such determination.

4223 (e) No social equity applicant that receives a micro-cultivator license
4224 under this section shall be eligible to apply for a provisional license and
4225 a final license to create more than one equity joint venture to be
4226 approved by the Social Equity Council under section 21a-420d, as
4227 amended by this act, and no such social equity applicant shall operate
4228 any such equity joint venture unless such social equity applicant has
4229 received a micro-cultivator license under this section, commenced
4230 cultivation activities under such micro-cultivator license and submitted
4231 to the department both the application fee required under subdivision
4232 (1) of subsection (c) of this section and a conversion fee in the amount of
4233 five hundred thousand dollars. The conversion fee collected pursuant to
4234 this subsection shall be deposited in the social equity and innovation
4235 account established in section 21a-420f. The three-million-dollar fee paid
4236 by the social equity applicant pursuant to section 21a-420o to receive a
4237 provisional cultivator license shall be considered the conversion fee to
4238 convert to a micro-cultivator license pursuant to this section. Cultivators
4239 that paid the three-million-dollar fee under section 21a-420o and
4240 received license conversion approval under section 21a-420aa, as
4241 amended by this act, may create not more than two equity joint

4242 ventures. No such cultivator shall apply for, or create, any additional
4243 equity joint venture if, on July 1, 2025, such cultivator has created at least
4244 two equity joint ventures that have each received a provisional license.

4245 (f) Each application submitted to the department pursuant to
4246 subsection (b) of this section, and all information included in, or
4247 submitted with, any application submitted pursuant to said subsection,
4248 shall be subject to the provisions of subsection (g) of section 21a-420e.

4249 (g) [A] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (k) of
4250 section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, a micro-cultivator licensed
4251 under this section, including the backer of such micro-cultivator, shall
4252 not increase its ownership in an equity joint venture in excess of fifty per
4253 cent during the seven-year period beginning on the date on which a final
4254 micro-cultivator license is issued by the department under this section.

4255 Sec. 76. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 21a-420cc of the 2026
4256 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
4257 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4258 (a) During the period beginning January 1, 2026, and ending
4259 December 31, 2027, the department shall issue a cultivator license or
4260 micro-cultivator license to a social equity applicant, which permits such
4261 applicant to locate such applicant's cultivator or micro-cultivator facility
4262 outside of a disproportionately impacted area, provided:

4263 (1) On or before July 1, 2026, the social equity applicant submits to
4264 the department a complete application for a provisional cultivator or
4265 micro-cultivator license pursuant to subsection (a) of section 21a-420o;

4266 (2) On or before June 30, 2027, the Social Equity Council verifies,
4267 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-420o, that
4268 such applicant meets the criteria established for a social equity
4269 applicant;

4270 (3) On or before June 30, 2027, the department issues a provisional
4271 cultivator or micro-cultivator license to the social equity applicant

4272 pursuant to section 21a-420o; and

4273 (4) On or before July 1, 2027, the provisional licensee submits to the
4274 department a complete application for a final cultivator or micro-
4275 cultivator license, as prescribed in section 21a-420g, as amended by this
4276 act, which application shall include:

4277 (A) A copy of a fully executed lease agreement between the
4278 provisional licensee and a hemp producer, which hemp producer has
4279 been continually licensed under section 22-61l, as amended by this act,
4280 since January 1, 2024, and which agreement provides:

4281 (i) For the use of the hemp producer's lot, as defined in section 22-61l,
4282 as amended by this act, that is on record with the Department of
4283 Agriculture on January 1, 2024, and may be located outside of a
4284 disproportionately impacted area; and

4285 (ii) That the hemp producer does not currently hold a position of
4286 ownership, control or management of the provisional licensee, and if a
4287 final cultivator or micro-cultivator license is issued to the provisional
4288 licensee pursuant to this section, the hemp producer shall not, except as
4289 provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (k) of section 21a-420d, as
4290 amended by this act, hold a position of ownership, control or
4291 management of the licensee for a period of seven years commencing on
4292 the date on which such final license is issued pursuant to this section;
4293 and

4294 (iii) An express acknowledgment by the parties that if the department
4295 issues a final cultivator or micro-cultivator license to the provisional
4296 licensee pursuant to this section, the hemp producer shall immediately
4297 be deemed to have automatically surrendered such hemp producer's
4298 license;

4299 (B) Evidence sufficient for the department to verify that the hemp
4300 producer that is a party to the lease has been continually licensed as a
4301 hemp producer since January 1, 2024;

4302 (C) An acknowledgment by the provisional licensee that, if the
4303 department issues a final cultivator or micro-cultivator license to such
4304 provisional licensee pursuant to this section, such licensee shall (i) in the
4305 case of a final cultivator license, be eligible to create not more than one
4306 equity joint venture after such licensee receives such license and
4307 commences cultivation activities under such license, or (ii) in the case of
4308 a final micro-cultivator license, be ineligible to create an equity joint
4309 venture after such licensee receives such license; and

4310 (D) An attestation by the provisional licensee that (i) the hemp
4311 producer from which such provisional licensee is leasing land shall have
4312 no ownership interest in, or managerial control over, such licensee,
4313 other than any ownership interest or control previously disclosed to the
4314 Social Equity Council for the purpose of determining that the social
4315 equity applicant meets the criteria for a social equity applicant pursuant
4316 to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-420o, and (ii) all hemp
4317 has been harvested from the lot subject to the lease between the
4318 provisional licensee and the hemp producer.

4319 (b) [During] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (k)
4320 of section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, during the seven-year
4321 period commencing on the date on which a final cultivator license or
4322 final micro-cultivator license is issued pursuant to this section, the
4323 cultivator or micro-cultivator issued such final license shall:

4324 (1) Not enter into any business arrangement with the hemp producer,
4325 other than for the lease of the hemp producer's lot, or any affiliate,
4326 subsidiary or entity controlled by the hemp producer if such business
4327 arrangement may result in such hemp producer, affiliate, subsidiary or
4328 entity holding a position of ownership, control or management of the
4329 cultivator or micro-cultivator; and

4330 (2) Disclose any direct or indirect business interest or relationship
4331 between the cultivator or micro-cultivator and the hemp producer or
4332 any affiliate, subsidiary or entity controlled by the hemp producer or
4333 any key participant, as defined in section 22-61l, as amended by this act.

4334 Sec. 77. Subsection (f) of section 21a-421d of the general statutes is
4335 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
4336 *1, 2026*):

4337 (f) A producer, cultivator or micro-cultivator may sell, transport or
4338 transfer cannabis to a product packager, food or beverage manufacturer,
4339 product manufacturer, dispensary facility or hybrid retailer for the sale
4340 of products to [qualified] qualifying patients, [or] qualifying out-of-state
4341 patients, caregivers or qualifying out-of-state caregivers, as applicable,
4342 which products shall be labeled "For Medical Use Only".

4343 Sec. 78. Subsection (b) of section 21a-421j of the 2026 supplement to
4344 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
4345 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

4346 (b) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with
4347 chapter 54 to implement the provisions of RERACA. Notwithstanding
4348 the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to
4349 effectuate the purposes of RERACA and protect public health and
4350 safety, prior to adopting such regulations the commissioner shall issue
4351 policies and procedures to implement the provisions of RERACA that
4352 shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all
4353 policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site and
4354 submit such policies and procedures to the joint standing committee of
4355 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
4356 consumer protection and the Secretary of the State for posting on the
4357 eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of
4358 any policy or procedure. The commissioner shall also provide such
4359 policies and procedures, in a manner prescribed by the commissioner,
4360 to each licensee. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be
4361 effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or
4362 procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or [sixty-three
4363 months from June 22, 2021] July 1, 2028. The commissioner shall issue
4364 policies and procedures and thereafter final regulations that include, but
4365 are not limited to, the following:

4366 (1) Setting appropriate dosage, potency, concentration and serving
4367 size limits and delineation requirements for cannabis, provided a
4368 standardized serving of edible cannabis product or beverage, other than
4369 a medical marijuana product, shall contain not more than five
4370 milligrams of THC.

4371 (2) Requiring that each single standardized serving of cannabis
4372 product in a multiple-serving edible product or beverage is physically
4373 demarked in a way that enables a reasonable person to determine how
4374 much of the product constitutes a single serving and a maximum
4375 amount of THC per multiple-serving edible cannabis product or
4376 beverage.

4377 (3) Requiring that, if it is impracticable to clearly demark every
4378 standardized serving of cannabis product or to make each standardized
4379 serving easily separable in an edible cannabis product or beverage, the
4380 product, other than cannabis concentrate or medical marijuana product,
4381 shall contain not more than five milligrams of THC per unit of sale.

4382 (4) Establishing, in consultation with the Department of Mental
4383 Health and Addiction Services, consumer health materials that shall be
4384 posted or distributed, as specified by the commissioner, by cannabis
4385 establishments to maximize dissemination to cannabis consumers.
4386 Consumer health materials may include pamphlets, packaging inserts,
4387 signage, online and printed advertisements and advisories and printed
4388 health materials.

4389 (5) Imposing labeling and packaging requirements for cannabis sold
4390 by a cannabis establishment that include, but are not limited to, the
4391 following:

4392 (A) Inclusion of universal symbols to indicate that cannabis, or a
4393 cannabis product, contains THC and is not legal or safe for individuals
4394 younger than twenty-one years of age, and prescribe how such product
4395 and product packaging shall utilize and exhibit such symbols.

4396 (B) A disclosure concerning the length of time it typically takes for

4397 the cannabis to affect an individual, including that certain forms of
4398 cannabis take longer to have an effect.

4399 (C) A notation of the amount of cannabis the cannabis product is
4400 considered the equivalent to.

4401 (D) A list of ingredients and additives for cannabis.

4402 (E) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (f) of section
4403 21a-420p, as amended by this act, child-resistant, tamper-resistant and
4404 light-resistant packaging. For the purposes of this subparagraph,
4405 packaging shall be deemed to be (i) child-resistant if the packaging
4406 satisfies the standard for special packaging established in 16 CFR
4407 1700.1(b)(4), as amended from time to time, (ii) tamper-resistant if the
4408 packaging has at least one barrier to, or indicator of, entry that would
4409 preclude the contents of such packaging from being accessed or
4410 adulterated without indicating to a reasonable person that such
4411 packaging has been breached, and (iii) light-resistant if the packaging is
4412 entirely and uniformly opaque and protects the entirety of the contents
4413 of such packaging from the effects of light.

4414 (F) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (f) of section
4415 21a-420p, as amended by this act, (i) packaging for cannabis intended
4416 for multiple servings to be resealable in such a manner so as to render
4417 such packaging continuously child-resistant, as described in
4418 subparagraph (E)(i) of this subdivision, and preserve the integrity of the
4419 contents of such packaging, and (ii) if packaging for cannabis intended
4420 for multiple servings contains any edible cannabis product, for each
4421 single standardized serving to be easily discernible and (I) individually
4422 wrapped, or (II) physically demarked and delineated as required under
4423 this subsection.

4424 (G) Impervious packaging that protects the contents of such
4425 packaging from contamination and exposure to any toxic or harmful
4426 substance, including, but not limited to, any glue or other adhesive or
4427 substance that is incorporated in such packaging.

4428 (H) Product tracking information sufficient to determine where and
4429 when the cannabis was grown and manufactured such that a product
4430 recall could be effectuated.

4431 (I) A net weight statement.

4432 (J) A recommended use by or expiration date.

4433 (K) Standard and uniform packaging and labeling, including, but not
4434 limited to, requirements (i) regarding branding or logos, (ii) that all
4435 packaging be opaque, and (iii) that amounts and concentrations of THC
4436 and cannabidiol, per serving and per package, be clearly marked on the
4437 packaging or label of any cannabis product sold.

4438 (L) For any cannabis concentrate cannabis product that contains a
4439 total THC percentage greater than thirty per cent, a warning that such
4440 cannabis product is a high-potency product and may increase the risk
4441 of psychosis.

4442 (M) Chemotypes, which shall be displayed as (i) "High THC, Low
4443 CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is greater than five to one and the
4444 total THC percentage is at least fifteen per cent, (ii) "Moderate THC,
4445 Moderate CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is at least one to five but
4446 not greater than five to one and the total THC percentage is greater than
4447 five per cent but less than fifteen per cent, (iii) "Low THC, High CBD"
4448 where the ratio of THC to CBD is less than one to five and the total THC
4449 percentage is not greater than five per cent, or (iv) the chemotype
4450 described in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of this subparagraph that most closely
4451 fits the cannabis or cannabis product, as determined by mathematical
4452 analysis of the ratio of THC to CBD, where such cannabis or cannabis
4453 product does not fit a chemotype described in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of
4454 this subparagraph.

4455 (N) A requirement that, prior to being sold and transferred to a
4456 consumer, qualifying patient or caregiver, cannabis packaging be
4457 clearly labeled, whether printed directly on such packaging or affixed
4458 by way of a separate label, other than an extended content label, with:

4459 (i) A unique identifier generated by a cannabis analytic tracking
4460 system maintained by the department and used to track cannabis under
4461 the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by
4462 the commissioner pursuant to this section; and

4463 (ii) The following information concerning the cannabis contained in
4464 such packaging, which shall be in legible English, black lettering, Times
4465 New Roman font, flat regular typeface, on a contrasting background
4466 and in uniform size of not less than one-tenth of one inch, based on a
4467 capital letter "K", which information shall also be available on the
4468 Internet web site of the cannabis establishment that sells and transfers
4469 such cannabis:

4470 (I) The name of such cannabis, as registered with the department
4471 under the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted,
4472 by the commissioner pursuant to this section.

4473 (II) The expiration date, which shall not account for any refrigeration
4474 after such cannabis is sold and transferred to the consumer, qualifying
4475 patient or caregiver.

4476 (III) The net weight or volume, expressed in metric and imperial
4477 units.

4478 (IV) The standardized serving size, expressed in customary units, and
4479 the number of servings included in such packaging, if applicable.

4480 (V) Directions for use and storage.

4481 (VI) Each active ingredient comprising at least one per cent of such
4482 cannabis, including cannabinoids, isomers, esters, ethers and salts and
4483 salts of isomers, esters and ethers, and all quantities thereof expressed
4484 in metric units and as a percentage of volume.

4485 (VII) A list of all known allergens, as identified by the federal Food
4486 and Drug Administration, contained in such cannabis, or the denotation
4487 "no known FDA identified allergens" if such cannabis does not contain
4488 any allergen identified by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

4489 (VIII) The following warning statement within, and outlined by, a red
4490 box:

4491 "This product is not FDA-approved, may be intoxicating, cause long-
4492 term physical and mental health problems, and have delayed side
4493 effects. It is illegal to operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence
4494 of cannabis. Keep away from children."

4495 (IX) At least one of the following warning statements, rotated
4496 quarterly on an alternating basis:

4497 "Warning: Frequent and prolonged use of cannabis can contribute to
4498 mental health problems over time, including anxiety, depression,
4499 stunted brain development and impaired memory."

4500 "Warning: Consumption while pregnant or breastfeeding may be
4501 harmful."

4502 "Warning: Cannabis has intoxicating effects and may be habit-
4503 forming and addictive."

4504 "Warning: Consuming more than the recommended amount may
4505 result in adverse effects requiring medical attention."

4506 (X) All information necessary to comply with labeling requirements
4507 imposed under the laws of this state and federal law, including, but not
4508 limited to, sections 21a-91 to 21a-120, inclusive, and 21a-151 to 21a-159,
4509 inclusive, the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 USC 301 et seq.,
4510 as amended from time to time, and the federal Fair Packaging and
4511 Labeling Act, 15 USC 1451 et seq., as amended from time to time, for
4512 similar products that do not contain cannabis.

4513 (XI) Such additional warning labels for certain cannabis products as
4514 the commissioner may require and post on the department's Internet
4515 web site.

4516 (6) Establishing laboratory testing standards, consumer disclosures
4517 concerning mold and yeast in cannabis and permitted remediation

4518 practices.

4519 (7) Restricting forms of cannabis products and cannabis product
4520 delivery systems to ensure consumer safety and deter public health
4521 concerns.

4522 (8) Prohibiting certain manufacturing methods, or inclusion of
4523 additives to cannabis products, including, but not limited to, (A) added
4524 flavoring, terpenes or other additives unless approved by the
4525 department, or (B) any form of nicotine or other additive containing
4526 nicotine.

4527 (9) Prohibiting cannabis product types that appeal to children,
4528 including, but not limited to, facsimiles of foods, beverages and other
4529 items that appeal to children.

4530 (10) Establishing physical and cyber security requirements related to
4531 build out, monitoring and protocols for cannabis establishments as a
4532 requirement for licensure.

4533 (11) Placing temporary limits on the sale of cannabis in the adult-use
4534 market, if deemed appropriate and necessary by the commissioner, in
4535 response to a shortage of cannabis for qualifying patients.

4536 (12) Requiring retailers and hybrid retailers to make best efforts to
4537 provide access to (A) low-dose THC products, including products that
4538 have one milligram and two and a half milligrams of THC per dose, and
4539 (B) high-dose CBD products.

4540 (13) Requiring producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product
4541 manufacturers and food and beverage manufacturers to register brand
4542 names for cannabis, in accordance with the policies and procedures and
4543 subject to the fee set forth in, regulations adopted under chapter 420f.

4544 (14) Prohibiting a cannabis establishment from selling, other than the
4545 sale of medical marijuana products between cannabis establishments
4546 and the sale of cannabis to qualifying patients and caregivers, (A)
4547 cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material with a total THC

4548 concentration greater than thirty-five per cent on a dry-weight basis,
4549 and (B) any cannabis product other than cannabis flower and cannabis
4550 plant material with a total THC concentration greater than seventy per
4551 cent on a dry-weight basis, except that the provisions of subparagraph
4552 (B) of this subdivision shall not apply to the sale of prefilled cartridges
4553 for use in an electronic cannabis delivery system, as defined in section
4554 19a-342a, as amended by this act, and the department may adjust the
4555 percentages set forth in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision in
4556 regulations adopted pursuant to this section for purposes of public
4557 health or to address market access or shortage. As used in this
4558 subdivision, "cannabis plant material" means material from the cannabis
4559 plant, as defined in section 21a-279a, as amended by this act.

4560 (15) Requiring dispensary facilities, hybrid retailers and retailers to
4561 display the following types of cannabis in a form and manner prescribed
4562 by the department and in an area physically and visually separated from
4563 other cannabis for sale at such establishment: (A) Cannabis flower or
4564 other cannabis plant material with a total THC concentration greater
4565 than thirty per cent on a dry-weight basis, and (B) any cannabis product
4566 other than cannabis flower and cannabis plant material with a total THC
4567 concentration greater than sixty per cent on a dry-weight basis,
4568 excluding prefilled cartridges for use in an electronic cannabis delivery
4569 system. As used in this subdivision, "cannabis plant material" has the
4570 same meaning as provided in subsection (j) of section 21a-279a, as
4571 amended by this act.

4572 (16) Requiring any dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer that
4573 sells any form of cannabis that exceeds the THC concentrations set forth
4574 in subdivision (15) of this subsection to include the words "Warning -
4575 High THC" next to each such form of cannabis on such cannabis
4576 establishment's menus and advertisements.

4577 (17) Prescribing signage to be displayed at a dispensary facility,
4578 hybrid retailer or retailer informing consumers, qualifying patients and
4579 caregivers of health risks associated with cannabis in excess of the THC
4580 concentrations set forth in subdivision (15) of this subsection.

4581 (18) Permitting the outdoor cultivation of cannabis.

4582 (19) Prohibiting packaging that is (A) visually similar to any
4583 commercially similar product that does not contain cannabis, or (B) used
4584 for any good that is marketed to individuals reasonably expected to be
4585 younger than twenty-one years of age.

4586 (20) Allowing packaging to include a picture of the cannabis product
4587 and contain a logo of one cannabis establishment, which logo may be
4588 comprised of not more than three colors and provided neither black nor
4589 white shall be considered one of such three colors.

4590 (21) Requiring packaging to (A) be entirely and uniformly one color,
4591 and (B) not incorporate any information, print, embossing, debossing,
4592 graphic or hidden feature, other than any permitted or required label.

4593 (22) Requiring that packaging and labeling for an edible cannabis
4594 product, excluding the warning labels required under this subsection
4595 and a picture of the cannabis product described in subdivision (20) of
4596 this subsection but including, but not limited to, the logo of the cannabis
4597 establishment, shall only be comprised of black and white or a
4598 combination thereof.

4599 (23) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
4600 requiring that delivery device cartridges be labeled, in a clearly legible
4601 manner and in as large a font as the size of the device reasonably allows,
4602 with only the following information (i) the name of the cannabis
4603 establishment where the cannabis is grown or manufactured, (ii) the
4604 cannabis brand, (iii) the total THC and total CBD content contained
4605 within the delivery device cartridge, (iv) the expiration date, and (v) the
4606 unique identifier generated by a cannabis analytic tracking system
4607 maintained by the department and used to track cannabis under the
4608 policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by the
4609 commissioner pursuant to this section.

4610 (B) A cannabis establishment may emboss, deboss or similarly print
4611 the name of the cannabis establishment's business entity, and one logo

4612 with not more than three colors, on a delivery device cartridge.

4613 (24) Prescribing signage to be prominently displayed at dispensary
4614 facilities, retailers and hybrid retailers disclosing (A) possible health
4615 risks related to mold, and (B) the use and possible health risks related to
4616 the use of mold remediation techniques.

4617 Sec. 79. Section 21a-421j of the 2026 supplement to the general
4618 statutes, as amended by section 78 of this act, is repealed and the
4619 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

4620 (a) As used in this section: ["total THC"]

4621 (1) "Other cannabis plant material" (A) means cannabis trim and all
4622 parts of any plant or species of the genus cannabis, or any infra specific
4623 taxon thereof, excluding a growing plant, and the seeds thereof, and (B)
4624 does not include (i) cannabis flower or hemp, as defined in section 22-
4625 61l, as amended by this act, or (ii) an uprooted clone or uprooted cutting
4626 of the cannabis plant; and

4627 (2) "Total THC" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240,
4628 as amended by this act.

4629 (b) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with
4630 chapter 54 to implement the provisions of RERACA. Notwithstanding
4631 the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to
4632 effectuate the purposes of RERACA and protect public health and
4633 safety, prior to adopting such regulations the commissioner shall issue
4634 policies and procedures to implement the provisions of RERACA that
4635 shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all
4636 policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site and
4637 submit such policies and procedures to the joint standing committee of
4638 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
4639 consumer protection and the Secretary of the State for posting on the
4640 eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of
4641 any policy or procedure. The commissioner shall also provide such
4642 policies and procedures, in a manner prescribed by the commissioner,

4643 to each licensee. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be
4644 effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or
4645 procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or July 1, 2028. The
4646 commissioner shall issue policies and procedures and thereafter final
4647 regulations that include, but are not limited to, the following:

4648 (1) Setting appropriate dosage, potency, concentration and serving
4649 size limits and delineation requirements for cannabis, provided (A) a
4650 standardized serving of an edible cannabis product or beverage, other
4651 than a medical [marijuana] cannabis product, shall contain not more
4652 than five milligrams of THC, with an allowable variance for cannabis
4653 testing laboratory method uncertainty of up to plus or minus ten per
4654 cent of the reported value for THC, and (B) there shall be no dosage,
4655 potency or concentration limit for (i) cannabis concentrates, or (ii)
4656 cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material.

4657 (2) Requiring that each single standardized serving of cannabis
4658 product in a multiple-serving edible product or beverage is physically
4659 demarked in a way that enables a reasonable person to determine how
4660 much of the product constitutes a single serving and a maximum
4661 amount of THC per multiple-serving edible cannabis product or
4662 beverage.

4663 (3) Requiring that, if it is impracticable to clearly demark every
4664 standardized serving of cannabis product or to make each standardized
4665 serving easily separable in an edible cannabis product or beverage, the
4666 product, other than cannabis concentrate, [or medical marijuana]
4667 cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material or a medical cannabis
4668 product, shall contain not more than five milligrams of THC per unit of
4669 sale, with an allowable variance for cannabis testing laboratory method
4670 uncertainty of up to plus or minus ten per cent of the reported value for
4671 THC.

4672 (4) Establishing, in consultation with the Department of Mental
4673 Health and Addiction Services, consumer health materials that shall be
4674 posted or distributed, as specified by the commissioner, by cannabis

4675 establishments to maximize dissemination to cannabis consumers.
4676 Consumer health materials may include pamphlets, packaging inserts,
4677 signage, online and printed advertisements and advisories and printed
4678 health materials.

4679 (5) Imposing labeling and packaging requirements for cannabis sold
4680 by a cannabis establishment that include, but are not limited to, the
4681 following:

4682 (A) Inclusion of universal symbols to indicate that cannabis, or a
4683 cannabis product, contains THC and is not legal or safe for individuals
4684 younger than twenty-one years of age, and prescribe how such product
4685 and product packaging shall utilize and exhibit such symbols.

4686 (B) A disclosure concerning the length of time it typically takes for
4687 the cannabis to affect an individual, including that certain forms of
4688 cannabis take longer to have an effect.

4689 (C) A notation of the amount of cannabis the cannabis product is
4690 considered the equivalent to.

4691 (D) A list of ingredients and additives for cannabis.

4692 (E) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (f) of section
4693 21a-420p, as amended by this act, child-resistant, tamper-resistant and
4694 light-resistant packaging. For the purposes of this subparagraph,
4695 packaging shall be deemed to be (i) child-resistant if the packaging
4696 satisfies the standard for special packaging established in 16 CFR
4697 1700.1(b)(4), as amended from time to time, (ii) tamper-resistant if the
4698 packaging has at least one barrier to, or indicator of, entry that would
4699 preclude the contents of such packaging from being accessed or
4700 adulterated without indicating to a reasonable person that such
4701 packaging has been breached, and (iii) light-resistant if the packaging is
4702 entirely and uniformly opaque and protects the entirety of the contents
4703 of such packaging from the effects of light.

4704 (F) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (f) of section

4705 21a-420p, as amended by this act, (i) packaging for cannabis intended
4706 for multiple servings to be resealable in such a manner so as to render
4707 such packaging continuously child-resistant, as described in
4708 subparagraph (E)(i) of this subdivision, and preserve the integrity of the
4709 contents of such packaging, and (ii) if packaging for cannabis intended
4710 for multiple servings contains any edible cannabis product, for each
4711 single standardized serving to be easily discernible and (I) individually
4712 wrapped, or (II) physically demarked and delineated as required under
4713 this subsection.

4714 (G) Impervious packaging that protects the contents of such
4715 packaging from contamination and exposure to any toxic or harmful
4716 substance, including, but not limited to, any glue or other adhesive or
4717 substance that is incorporated in such packaging.

4718 (H) Product tracking information sufficient to determine where and
4719 when the cannabis was grown and manufactured such that a product
4720 recall could be effectuated.

4721 (I) A net weight statement.

4722 (J) A recommended use by or expiration date.

4723 (K) Standard and uniform packaging and labeling, including, but not
4724 limited to, requirements (i) regarding branding or logos, (ii) that all
4725 packaging be opaque, and (iii) that amounts and concentrations of THC
4726 and cannabidiol, per serving and per package, be clearly marked on the
4727 packaging or label of any cannabis product sold.

4728 (L) For any cannabis flower, other cannabis plant material or cannabis
4729 concentrate cannabis product that contains a total THC percentage
4730 greater than thirty per cent, a warning that such cannabis flower, other
4731 cannabis plant material or cannabis concentrate cannabis product is a
4732 high-potency product and may increase the risk of psychosis.

4733 (M) Chemotypes, which shall be displayed as (i) "High THC, Low
4734 CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is greater than five to one and the

4735 total THC percentage is at least fifteen per cent, (ii) "Moderate THC,
4736 Moderate CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is at least one to five but
4737 not greater than five to one and the total THC percentage is greater than
4738 five per cent but less than fifteen per cent, (iii) "Low THC, High CBD"
4739 where the ratio of THC to CBD is less than one to five and the total THC
4740 percentage is not greater than five per cent, or (iv) the chemotype
4741 described in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of this subparagraph that most closely
4742 fits the cannabis or cannabis product, as determined by mathematical
4743 analysis of the ratio of THC to CBD, where such cannabis or cannabis
4744 product does not fit a chemotype described in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of
4745 this subparagraph.

4746 (N) A requirement that, prior to being sold and transferred to a
4747 consumer, qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state patient,
4748 caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver, cannabis packaging be
4749 clearly labeled, whether printed directly on such packaging or affixed
4750 by way of a separate label, other than an extended content label, with:

4751 (i) A unique identifier generated by a cannabis analytic tracking
4752 system maintained by the department and used to track cannabis under
4753 the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by
4754 the commissioner pursuant to this section; and

4755 (ii) The following information concerning the cannabis contained in
4756 such packaging, which shall be in legible English, black lettering, Times
4757 New Roman font, flat regular typeface, on a contrasting background
4758 and in uniform size of not less than one-tenth of one inch, based on a
4759 capital letter "K", which information shall also be available on the
4760 Internet web site of the cannabis establishment that sells and transfers
4761 such cannabis:

4762 (I) The name of such cannabis, as registered with the department
4763 under the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted,
4764 by the commissioner pursuant to this section.

4765 (II) The expiration date, which shall not account for any refrigeration
4766 after such cannabis is sold and transferred to the consumer, qualifying

4767 patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-
4768 of-state caregiver.

4769 (III) The net weight or volume, expressed in metric and imperial
4770 units.

4771 (IV) The standardized serving size, expressed in customary units, and
4772 the number of servings included in such packaging, if applicable.

4773 (V) Directions for use and storage.

4774 (VI) Each active ingredient comprising at least one per cent of such
4775 cannabis, including cannabinoids, isomers, esters, ethers and salts and
4776 salts of isomers, esters and ethers, and all quantities thereof expressed
4777 in metric units and as a percentage of volume.

4778 (VII) A list of all known allergens, as identified by the federal Food
4779 and Drug Administration, contained in such cannabis, or the denotation
4780 "no known FDA identified allergens" if such cannabis does not contain
4781 any allergen identified by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

4782 (VIII) The following warning statement within, and outlined by, a red
4783 box:

4784 "This product is not FDA-approved, may be intoxicating, cause long-
4785 term physical and mental health problems, and have delayed side
4786 effects. It is illegal to operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence
4787 of cannabis. Keep away from children."

4788 (IX) At least one of the following warning statements, rotated
4789 quarterly on an alternating basis:

4790 "Warning: Frequent and prolonged use of cannabis can contribute to
4791 mental health problems over time, including anxiety, depression,
4792 stunted brain development and impaired memory."

4793 "Warning: Consumption while pregnant or breastfeeding may be
4794 harmful."

4795 "Warning: Cannabis has intoxicating effects and may be habit-
4796 forming and addictive."

4797 "Warning: Consuming more than the recommended amount may
4798 result in adverse effects requiring medical attention."

4799 (X) All information necessary to comply with labeling requirements
4800 imposed under the laws of this state and federal law, including, but not
4801 limited to, sections 21a-91 to 21a-120, inclusive, and 21a-151 to 21a-159,
4802 inclusive, the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 USC 301 et seq.,
4803 as amended from time to time, and the federal Fair Packaging and
4804 Labeling Act, 15 USC 1451 et seq., as amended from time to time, for
4805 similar products that do not contain cannabis.

4806 (XI) Such additional warning labels for certain cannabis products as
4807 the commissioner may require and post on the department's Internet
4808 web site.

4809 (6) Establishing laboratory testing standards. [.]

4810 (7) Establishing consumer disclosures concerning mold and yeast in
4811 cannabis. [and]

4812 (8) Establishing permitted remediation practices, which practices
4813 shall include, but need not be limited to, remediation of cannabis flower
4814 or other cannabis plant material by way of one or more exposures to
4815 ionizing radiation for any cannabis flower or other cannabis plant
4816 material that fails any laboratory testing due to microbial
4817 contamination.

4818 [(7)] (9) Restricting forms of cannabis products and cannabis product
4819 delivery systems to ensure consumer safety and deter public health
4820 concerns.

4821 [(8)] (10) Prohibiting certain manufacturing methods, or inclusion of
4822 additives to cannabis products, including, but not limited to, (A) added
4823 flavoring, terpenes or other additives unless approved by the
4824 department, or (B) any form of nicotine or other additive containing

4825 nicotine.

4826 [(9)] (11) Prohibiting cannabis product types that appeal to children,
4827 including, but not limited to, facsimiles of foods, beverages and other
4828 items that appeal to children.

4829 [(10)] (12) Establishing physical and cyber security requirements
4830 related to build out, monitoring and protocols for cannabis
4831 establishments as a requirement for licensure.

4832 [(11)] (13) Placing temporary limits on the sale of cannabis in the
4833 adult-use market, if deemed appropriate and necessary by the
4834 commissioner, in response to a shortage of cannabis for qualifying
4835 patients.

4836 [(12)] (14) Requiring retailers and hybrid retailers to make best efforts
4837 to provide access to (A) low-dose THC products, including products
4838 that have one milligram and two and a half milligrams of THC per dose,
4839 and (B) high-dose CBD products.

4840 [(13)] (15) Requiring producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators,
4841 product manufacturers and food and beverage manufacturers to
4842 register brand names for cannabis, in accordance with the policies and
4843 procedures and subject to the fee set forth in, regulations adopted under
4844 chapter 420f.

4845 [(14)] (16) Prohibiting a cannabis establishment from selling, other
4846 than the sale of medical [marijuana] cannabis products between
4847 cannabis establishments and the sale of cannabis to qualifying patients,
4848 [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-
4849 state caregivers, [(A) cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material
4850 with a total THC concentration greater than thirty-five per cent on a dry-
4851 weight basis, and (B)] any cannabis product [other than cannabis flower
4852 and cannabis plant material] with a total THC concentration greater
4853 than seventy per cent on a dry-weight basis, except that the provisions
4854 of [subparagraph (B) of] this subdivision shall not apply to the sale of
4855 cannabis concentrates, cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material

4856 or prefilled cartridges for use in an electronic cannabis delivery system,
4857 as defined in section 19a-342a, as amended by this act. [and the
4858 department may adjust the percentages set forth in subparagraph (A) or
4859 (B) of this subdivision in regulations adopted pursuant to this section
4860 for purposes of public health or to address market access or shortage.
4861 As used in this subdivision, "cannabis plant material" means material
4862 from the cannabis plant, as defined in section 21a-279a.]

4863 [(15)] (17) Requiring dispensary facilities, hybrid retailers and
4864 retailers to display the following types of cannabis in a form and manner
4865 prescribed by the department and in an area physically and visually
4866 separated from other cannabis for sale at such establishment: (A)
4867 Cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material with a total THC
4868 concentration greater than thirty per cent on a dry-weight basis, and (B)
4869 any cannabis product other than cannabis flower and cannabis plant
4870 material with a total THC concentration greater than sixty per cent on a
4871 dry-weight basis, excluding prefilled cartridges for use in an electronic
4872 cannabis delivery system. [As used in this subdivision, "cannabis plant
4873 material" has the same meaning as provided in subsection (j) of section
4874 21a-279a.]

4875 [(16)] (18) Requiring any dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer
4876 that sells any form of cannabis that exceeds the THC concentrations set
4877 forth in subdivision [(15)] (17) of this subsection to include the words
4878 "Warning - High THC" next to each such form of cannabis on such
4879 cannabis establishment's menus and advertisements.

4880 [(17)] (19) Prescribing signage to be displayed at a dispensary facility,
4881 hybrid retailer or retailer informing consumers, qualifying patients,
4882 [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-
4883 state caregivers of health risks associated with cannabis in excess of the
4884 THC concentrations set forth in subdivision [(15)] (17) of this subsection.

4885 [(18)] (20) Permitting the outdoor cultivation of cannabis.

4886 [(19)] (21) Prohibiting packaging that is (A) visually similar to any
4887 commercially similar product that does not contain cannabis, or (B) used

4888 for any good that is marketed to individuals reasonably expected to be
4889 younger than twenty-one years of age.

4890 [(20)] (22) Allowing packaging to include a picture of the cannabis
4891 product and contain a logo of one cannabis establishment, which logo
4892 may be comprised of not more than three colors and provided neither
4893 black nor white shall be considered one of such three colors.

4894 [(21)] (23) Requiring packaging to (A) be entirely and uniformly one
4895 color, and (B) not incorporate any information, print, embossing,
4896 debossing, graphic or hidden feature, other than any permitted or
4897 required label.

4898 [(22)] (24) Requiring that packaging and labeling for an edible
4899 cannabis product, excluding the warning labels required under this
4900 subsection and a picture of the cannabis product described in
4901 subdivision [(20)] (22) of this subsection but including, but not limited
4902 to, the logo of the cannabis establishment, shall only be comprised of
4903 black and white or a combination thereof.

4904 [(23)] (25) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this
4905 subdivision, requiring that delivery device cartridges be labeled, in a
4906 clearly legible manner and in as large a font as the size of the device
4907 reasonably allows, with only the following information (i) the name of
4908 the cannabis establishment where the cannabis is grown or
4909 manufactured, (ii) the cannabis brand, (iii) the total THC and total CBD
4910 content contained within the delivery device cartridge, (iv) the
4911 expiration date, and (v) the unique identifier generated by a cannabis
4912 analytic tracking system maintained by the department and used to
4913 track cannabis under the policies and procedures issued, and final
4914 regulations adopted, by the commissioner pursuant to this section.

4915 (B) A cannabis establishment may emboss, deboss or similarly print
4916 the name of the cannabis establishment's business entity, and one logo
4917 with not more than three colors, on a delivery device cartridge.

4918 [(24)] (26) Prescribing signage to be prominently displayed at

4919 dispensary facilities, retailers and hybrid retailers disclosing (A)
4920 possible health risks related to mold, and (B) the use and possible health
4921 risks related to the use of mold remediation techniques.

4922 Sec. 80. Subsection (b) of section 21a-421k of the 2026 supplement to
4923 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
4924 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

4925 (b) Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172,
4926 inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of RERACA and protect
4927 public health and safety, prior to adopting such regulations the
4928 commissioner shall implement policies and procedures to implement
4929 the provisions of RERACA that shall have the force and effect of law.
4930 The commissioner shall post all such policies and procedures on the
4931 department's Internet web site and submit such policies and procedures
4932 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
4933 cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection and the Secretary
4934 of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days
4935 prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policies
4936 and procedures shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either
4937 adoption of such policies and procedures as a final regulation under
4938 section 4-172 or [sixty-three months from June 22, 2021] July 1, 2028.

4939 Sec. 81. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 21a-421n of the general
4940 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
4941 (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

4942 (a) Each cannabis establishment, licensed pursuant to chapter 420f or
4943 the provisions of RERACA shall maintain a record of all cannabis
4944 grown, manufactured, wasted and distributed between cannabis
4945 establishments and to consumers, qualifying patients, [and] qualifying
4946 out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers in
4947 a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner
4948 shall require each cannabis establishment to use an electronic tracking
4949 system to monitor the production, harvesting, storage, manufacturing,
4950 packaging and labeling, processing, transport, transfer and sale of

4951 cannabis from the point of cannabis cultivation inception through the
4952 point when the final product is sold to a consumer, qualifying patient,
4953 qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver, qualifying out-of-state
4954 caregiver, research program or otherwise disposed of in accordance
4955 with chapter 420f or the provisions of RERACA, and the policies and
4956 procedures or regulations issued pursuant to RERACA. Cannabis
4957 establishments shall be required to utilize such electronic tracking
4958 system and enter the data points required by the commissioner to
4959 ensure cannabis is safe, secure and properly labeled for consumer, [or]
4960 qualifying patient or qualifying out-of-state patient use. The
4961 commissioner may contract with one or more vendors for the purpose
4962 of electronically collecting such cannabis information.

4963 (b) The electronic tracking system shall not collect information about
4964 any individual consumer, qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state
4965 patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver purchasing
4966 cannabis.

4967 Sec. 82. Subsection (e) of section 21a-421o of the general statutes is
4968 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
4969 *1, 2026*):

4970 (e) Except as otherwise provided in RERACA, all records maintained
4971 or kept on file related to RERACA by the department or the Social
4972 Equity Council shall be public records for purposes of the Freedom of
4973 Information Act, as defined in section 1-200. In addition to the
4974 nondisclosure provisions contained in sections 1-210, 21a-408d, as
4975 amended by this act, 21a-408l, as amended by this act, 21a-408v, as
4976 amended by this act, 21a-420g, 21a-421n, as amended by this act, 21a-
4977 421p and 21a-422k, as amended by this act, any information related to
4978 (1) the physical security plans of a cannabis establishment or the
4979 criminal background of individual applicants that is obtained by the
4980 department through the licensing process, (2) the supply and
4981 distribution of cannabis by cannabis establishments, and (3) [qualified]
4982 qualifying patient, [and] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver and
4983 qualifying out-of-state caregiver information, shall be confidential and

4984 shall not be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act,
4985 as defined in section 1-200.

4986 Sec. 83. Section 21a-421q of the general statutes is repealed and the
4987 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

4988 (a) Qualifying patients and caregivers registered pursuant to chapter
4989 420f, and qualifying out-of-state patients and qualifying out-of-state
4990 caregivers, shall be permitted to purchase cannabis of higher potency,
4991 varied dosage form, and in a larger per transaction or per day amount
4992 than are generally available for retail purchase, as determined by the
4993 commissioner. Such determination, if any, shall be published on the
4994 Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site or included in
4995 regulations adopted by the department.

4996 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the sale or
4997 delivery of drug paraphernalia to a qualifying patient, [or] qualifying
4998 out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver or
4999 person licensed pursuant to the provisions of RERACA or chapter 420f,
5000 shall not be considered a violation of the provisions of RERACA.

5001 Sec. 84. Section 21a-421r of the general statutes is repealed and the
5002 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

5003 A licensed pharmacist working as an employee at a dispensary
5004 facility or hybrid retailer shall transmit dispensing information, in a
5005 manner prescribed by the commissioner, on any cannabis sold to a
5006 qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or
5007 qualifying out-of-state caregiver in real-time or immediately upon
5008 completion of the transaction, unless not reasonably feasible for a
5009 specific transaction, but in no case longer than one hour after completion
5010 of the transaction.

5011 Sec. 85. Section 21a-421s of the general statutes is repealed and the
5012 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

5013 (a) For the purposes of this section, [: (1) "Container" (A)] "container"

5014 (1) means an object that is offered, intended for sale or sold to a
5015 consumer and directly contains an infused beverage, [or legacy infused
5016 beverage,] and [(B)] (2) does not include an object or packaging that
5017 indirectly contains, or contains in bulk for transportation purposes, an
5018 infused beverage, [or legacy infused beverage; and

5019 (2) "Legacy infused beverage" has the same meaning as provided in
5020 section 21a-425.]

5021 (b) A fee of one dollar shall be assessed by a dispensary facility,
5022 hybrid retailer or retailer on each infused beverage container [and
5023 legacy infused beverage container] sold by such cannabis establishment.
5024 Such fee shall not be subject to any sales tax or treated as income
5025 pursuant to any provision of the general statutes.

5026 (c) On [October 1, 2024, and every six months thereafter] the first days
5027 of October and April, annually, each dispensary facility, hybrid retailer
5028 or retailer shall remit payment to the department for each infused
5029 beverage container [and legacy infused beverage container] sold during
5030 the preceding six-month period. The funds received by the department
5031 from infused beverage sales [and legacy infused beverage sales] shall be
5032 deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established
5033 in section 21a-8a for the purposes of (1) protecting public health and
5034 safety, (2) educating consumers and licensees, and (3) ensuring
5035 compliance with cannabis and liquor control laws.

5036 Sec. 86. Subsection (c) of section 21a-421aa of the general statutes is
5037 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
5038 *1, 2026*):

5039 (c) A retailer or hybrid retailer shall not knowingly sell to a consumer
5040 more than one ounce of cannabis or the equivalent amount of cannabis
5041 products or combination of cannabis and cannabis products, as set forth
5042 in subsection (i) of section 21a-279a, per day, except that a hybrid retailer
5043 or dispensary facility may sell up to five ounces of cannabis or the
5044 equivalent amount of cannabis products or combination of cannabis and
5045 cannabis products to a qualifying patient or caregiver, or a qualifying

5046 out-of-state patient or qualifying out-of-state caregiver, per day.
5047 Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive,
5048 to avoid cannabis supply shortages or address a public health and safety
5049 concern, the commissioner may set temporary lower per-transaction
5050 limits, which shall be published on the department's Internet web site.
5051 Such limits shall become ineffective upon the commissioner's
5052 determination that a supply shortage or public health and safety
5053 concern no longer exists.

5054 Sec. 87. Subsection (b) of section 21a-421bb of the 2026 supplement to
5055 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
5056 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

5057 (b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, cannabis
5058 establishments shall not:

5059 (1) Advertise, including, but not limited to, through a business name
5060 or logo, cannabis, cannabis paraphernalia or goods or services related to
5061 cannabis:

5062 (A) In ways that target or are designed to appeal to individuals under
5063 twenty-one years of age, including, but not limited to, spokespersons or
5064 celebrities who appeal to individuals under the legal age to purchase
5065 cannabis or cannabis products, depictions of a person under twenty-five
5066 years of age consuming cannabis, or, the inclusion of objects, such as
5067 toys, characters or cartoon characters, suggesting the presence of a
5068 person under twenty-one years of age, or any other depiction designed
5069 in any manner to be appealing to a person under twenty-one years of
5070 age; or

5071 (B) By using any image, or any other visual representation, of the
5072 cannabis plant or any part of the cannabis plant, including, but not
5073 limited to, the leaf of the cannabis plant;

5074 (2) Engage in any advertising by means of any form of billboard
5075 within one thousand five hundred feet of an elementary or secondary
5076 school ground or a house of worship, recreation center or facility, child

5077 care center, playground, public park or library, or engage in any
5078 advertising by means of a billboard between the hours of six o'clock a.m.
5079 and eleven o'clock p.m.;

5080 (3) Engage in advertising by means of any television, radio, Internet,
5081 mobile application, social media or other electronic communication,
5082 billboard or other outdoor signage, or print publication unless the
5083 cannabis establishment has reliable evidence that at least ninety per cent
5084 of the audience for the advertisement is reasonably expected to be
5085 twenty-one years of age or older;

5086 (4) Engage in advertising or marketing directed toward location-
5087 based devices, including, but not limited to, cellular phones, unless the
5088 marketing is a mobile device application installed on the device by the
5089 owner of the device who is twenty-one years of age or older and
5090 includes a permanent and easy opt-out feature and warnings that the
5091 use of cannabis is restricted to persons twenty-one years of age or older;

5092 (5) Advertise cannabis or cannabis products in a manner claiming or
5093 implying, or permit any employee of the cannabis establishment to
5094 claim or imply, that such products have curative or therapeutic effects,
5095 or that any other medical claim is true, or allow any employee to
5096 promote cannabis for a wellness purpose unless such claims are
5097 substantiated as set forth in regulations adopted under chapter 420f or
5098 verbally conveyed by a licensed pharmacist or other licensed medical
5099 practitioner in the course of business in, or while representing, a hybrid
5100 [retail] retailer or dispensary facility;

5101 (6) Sponsor charitable, sports, musical, artistic, cultural, social or
5102 other similar events or advertising at, or in connection with, such an
5103 event unless the cannabis establishment has reliable evidence that (A)
5104 not more than ten per cent of the in-person audience at the event is
5105 reasonably expected to be under the legal age to purchase cannabis or
5106 cannabis products, and (B) not more than ten per cent of the audience
5107 that will watch, listen or participate in the event is expected to be under
5108 the legal age to purchase cannabis products;

5109 (7) Advertise cannabis, cannabis products or cannabis paraphernalia
5110 in any physical form visible to the public within five hundred feet of an
5111 elementary or secondary school ground or a recreation center or facility,
5112 child care center, playground, public park or library;

5113 (8) Cultivate cannabis or manufacture cannabis products for
5114 distribution outside of this state in violation of federal law, advertise in
5115 any way that encourages the transportation of cannabis across state lines
5116 or otherwise encourages illegal activity;

5117 [(9) Except for dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers, exhibit
5118 within or upon the outside of the facility used in the operation of a
5119 cannabis establishment, or include in any advertisement, the word
5120 "dispensary" or any variation of such term or any other words, displays
5121 or symbols indicating that such store, shop or place of business is a
5122 dispensary;]

5123 [(10)] (9) Exhibit within or upon the outside of the premises subject to
5124 the cannabis establishment license, or include in any advertisement the
5125 words "drug store", "pharmacy", "apothecary", "drug", "drugs" or
5126 "medicine shop" or any combination of such terms or any other words,
5127 displays or symbols indicating that such store, shop or place of business
5128 is a pharmacy;

5129 [(11)] (10) Advertise on or in public or private vehicles or at bus stops,
5130 taxi stands, transportation waiting areas, train stations, airports or other
5131 similar transportation venues including, but not limited to, vinyl-
5132 wrapped vehicles or signs or logos on transportation vehicles not
5133 owned by a cannabis establishment;

5134 [(12)] (11) Display cannabis, cannabis products or any image, or any
5135 other visual representation, of the cannabis plant or any part of the
5136 cannabis plant, including, but not limited to, the leaf of the cannabis
5137 plant, so as to be clearly visible to a person from the exterior of the
5138 facility used in the operation of a cannabis establishment, or display
5139 signs or other printed material advertising any brand or any kind of
5140 cannabis or cannabis product, or including any image, or any other

5141 visual representation, of the cannabis plant or any part of the cannabis
5142 plant, including, but not limited to, the leaf of the cannabis plant, on the
5143 exterior of any facility used in the operation of a cannabis establishment;

5144 ~~[(13)]~~ (12) Utilize radio or loudspeaker, in a vehicle or in or outside of
5145 a facility used in the operation of a cannabis establishment, for the
5146 purposes of advertising the sale of cannabis or cannabis products;

5147 ~~[(14)]~~ (13) Operate any Internet web site advertising or depicting
5148 cannabis, cannabis products or cannabis paraphernalia unless such
5149 Internet web site verifies that the entrants or users are twenty-one years
5150 of age or older; or

5151 ~~[(15)]~~ (14) Engage in advertising or marketing that includes a
5152 discounted price or other promotional offering as an inducement to
5153 purchase any cannabis or cannabis product that is not a medical
5154 ~~[marijuana]~~ cannabis product, except a discounted price or promotional
5155 offering may be offered, as an inducement to purchase cannabis, (A)
5156 within a dispensary facility, retailer or hybrid retailer, (B) through a
5157 delivery service, or (C) on an Internet web site maintained by or for a
5158 dispensary facility, retailer or hybrid retailer where cannabis or
5159 cannabis products may be lawfully ordered.

5160 Sec. 88. Section 21a-421ddd of the general statutes is repealed and the
5161 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

5162 Any person twenty-three years of age or older who sells, delivers or
5163 gives cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by
5164 this act, to any person under twenty-one years of age, and who knew or
5165 should have known that such person was under twenty-one years of
5166 age, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

5167 Sec. 89. Subsection (a) of section 21a-422g of the general statutes is
5168 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
5169 *1, 2026*):

5170 (a) Upon the petition of not less than ten per cent of the electors of

5171 any municipality, lodged with the town clerk at least sixty days before
5172 the date of any regular election, as defined in section 9-1, the selectmen
5173 of the municipality shall warn the electors of such municipality that, at
5174 such regular election, a vote shall be taken to determine: (1) Whether or
5175 not the recreational sale of [marijuana] cannabis shall be permitted in
5176 such municipality, or (2) whether the sale of [marijuana] cannabis shall
5177 be permitted in such municipality in one or more of the classes of license
5178 of cannabis establishments. The ballot label designations in a vote upon
5179 the question of cannabis establishment license shall be "Shall the sale of
5180 recreational [marijuana] cannabis be allowed in (Name of
5181 municipality)?" or "Shall the sale of cannabis under (Specified license or
5182 Licenses) be allowed in (Name of municipality)?" or "Shall the sale of
5183 recreational [marijuana] cannabis be prohibited (No Licenses) in
5184 (Name of municipality)?" and shall be provided in accordance with the
5185 provisions of section 9-250. No elector shall vote for more than one
5186 designation. Such vote shall be taken in the manner prescribed in section
5187 9-369 and shall become effective on the first Monday of the month next
5188 succeeding such election and shall remain in force until a new vote is
5189 taken; provided such vote may be taken at a special election called for
5190 the purpose in conformity with the provisions of section 9-164 and
5191 provided at least one year shall have elapsed since the previous vote
5192 was taken. The provisions of chapter 145 concerning absentee voting at
5193 referenda shall apply to all votes taken upon the question of cannabis
5194 establishment license. Any class of cannabis establishments already
5195 allowed in a municipality shall not be affected by any vote.

5196 Sec. 90. Section 21a-422k of the general statutes is repealed and the
5197 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

5198 (a) For purposes of this section:

5199 (1) "Material change" means: (A) The addition of a backer, (B) a
5200 change in the ownership interest of an existing backer, (C) the merger,
5201 consolidation or other affiliation of a cannabis establishment with
5202 another cannabis establishment, (D) the acquisition of all or part of a
5203 cannabis establishment by another cannabis establishment or backer,

5204 and (E) the transfer of assets or security interests from a cannabis
5205 establishment to another cannabis establishment or backer;

5206 (2) "Cannabis establishment" has the same meaning as provided in
5207 section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

5208 (3) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as
5209 amended by this act; and

5210 (4) "Transfer" means to sell, transfer, lease, exchange, option, convey,
5211 give or otherwise dispose of or transfer control over, including, but not
5212 limited to, transfer by way of merger or joint venture not in the ordinary
5213 course of business.

5214 (b) No person shall, directly or indirectly, enter into a transaction that
5215 results in a material change to a cannabis establishment, unless all
5216 parties involved in the transaction file a written notification with the
5217 Attorney General pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and the
5218 waiting period described in subsection (d) of this section has expired.

5219 (c) The written notice required under subsection (b) of this section
5220 shall be in such form and contain such documentary material and
5221 information relevant to the proposed transaction as the Attorney
5222 General deems necessary and appropriate to enable the Attorney
5223 General to determine whether such transaction, if consummated, would
5224 violate antitrust laws.

5225 (d) The waiting period required under subsection (b) of this section
5226 shall begin on the date of the receipt by the Attorney General's office of
5227 the completed notification required under subsection (c) of this section
5228 from all parties to the transaction and shall end on the thirtieth day after
5229 the date of such receipt, unless such time is extended pursuant to
5230 subsection (f) of this section.

5231 (e) The Attorney General may, in individual cases, terminate the
5232 waiting period specified in subsection (d) of this section and allow any
5233 person to proceed with any transaction.

5234 (f) The Attorney General may, prior to the expiration of the thirty-day
5235 waiting period, require the submission of additional information or
5236 documentary material relevant to the proposed transaction from a
5237 person required to file notification with respect to such transaction
5238 under subsection (b) of this section. Upon request for additional
5239 information under this subsection, the waiting period shall be extended
5240 until thirty days after the parties have substantially complied, as
5241 determined solely by the Attorney General, with such request for
5242 additional information.

5243 (g) Any information or documentary material filed with the Attorney
5244 General pursuant to this section shall not be subject to disclosure under
5245 the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200, and no such
5246 information or documentary material may be made public, except as
5247 may be relevant to any administrative or judicial action or proceeding.
5248 Such information or documentary material shall be returned to the
5249 person furnishing such information or documentary material upon the
5250 termination of the Attorney General's review or final determination of
5251 any action or proceeding commenced thereunder.

5252 (h) (1) Any person, or any officer, director or partner thereof, who
5253 fails to comply with any provision of this section shall be liable to the
5254 state for a civil penalty of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars
5255 for each day during which such person is in violation of this section.
5256 Such penalty may be recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney
5257 General.

5258 (2) If any person, or any officer, director, partner, agent or employee
5259 thereof, fails substantially to comply with the notification requirement
5260 under subsection (b) of this section or any request for the submission of
5261 additional information or documentary material under subsection (f) of
5262 this section within the waiting period specified in subsection (d) of this
5263 section and as may be extended under subsection (f) of this section, the
5264 court:

5265 (A) May order compliance;

5266 (B) Shall extend the waiting period specified in subsection (d) of this
5267 section and as may have been extended under subsection (f) of this
5268 section until there has been substantial compliance, except that, in the
5269 case of a tender offer, the court may not extend such waiting period on
5270 the basis of a failure, by the person whose stock is sought to be acquired,
5271 to comply substantially with such notification requirement or any such
5272 request; and

5273 (C) May grant such other equitable relief as the court in its discretion
5274 determines necessary or appropriate, upon application of the Attorney
5275 General.

5276 (i) (1) Not later than thirty days after the effective date of any
5277 transaction described in subsection (b) of this section that involves a
5278 cannabis establishment license awarded to a social equity applicant, all
5279 parties involved in such transaction shall submit to the Social Equity
5280 Council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, a written
5281 notice disclosing (A) the effective date of such transaction, (B) the
5282 identity of each party to such transaction, (C) the nature of each cannabis
5283 establishment involved in such transaction, broken down by license
5284 type, and (D) the nature, and a detailed description of, each material
5285 change made to a cannabis establishment involved in such transaction.

5286 (2) The Social Equity Council shall post a copy of each written notice
5287 the council receives under subdivision (1) of this subsection on the
5288 council's Internet web site.

5289 Sec. 91. Subsection (a) of section 21a-422l of the general statutes is
5290 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
5291 *1, 2026*):

5292 (a) As used in this section, "cannabis" has the same meaning as
5293 provided in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act, and
5294 "electronic cannabis delivery system" and "vapor product" have the
5295 same meanings as provided in section 19a-342a, as amended by this act.
5296 No hotel, motel or similar lodging shall prohibit the legal possession or
5297 consumption of cannabis in any nonpublic area of such hotel, motel or

5298 similar lodging.

5299 Sec. 92. Section 21a-422m of the general statutes is repealed and the
5300 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

5301 As used in this section, "hospital" has the same meaning as provided
5302 in section 19a-490 and "cannabis" has the same meaning as provided in
5303 section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act. No hospital shall be
5304 required to allow a patient to use cannabis while at such hospital. A
5305 hospital may have a policy that sets forth restrictions patients shall
5306 follow regarding cannabis use.

5307 Sec. 93. Section 21a-425 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
5308 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
5309 *October 1, 2026*):

5310 For the purposes of this section, sections 21a-425a, as amended by this
5311 act, 21a-425b, as amended by this act, 21a-425e, as amended by this act,
5312 and 21a-425f, as amended by this act:

5313 (1) "Alcoholic beverage" has the same meaning as provided in section
5314 30-1, as amended by this act;

5315 (2) "Cannabis" [means marijuana, as defined] has the same meaning
5316 as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act;

5317 (3) "Cannabis establishment" has the same meaning as provided in
5318 section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

5319 (4) "Cannabis product" has the same meaning as provided in section
5320 21a-420, as amended by this act;

5321 (5) "Cannabis testing laboratory" has the same meaning as provided
5322 in section 21a-408, as amended by this act;

5323 (6) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer
5324 Protection;

5325 (7) "Consumer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420,
5326 as amended by this act;

5327 (8) "Container" (A) means an object that is offered, intended for sale
5328 or sold to a consumer and directly contains an infused beverage or high-
5329 THC beverage, and (B) does not include an object or packaging that
5330 indirectly contains, or contains in bulk for transportation purposes, an
5331 infused beverage or high-THC beverage;

5332 (9) "Cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420,
5333 as amended by this act;

5334 (10) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection;

5335 (11) "Dispensary facility" has the same meaning as provided in
5336 section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

5337 (12) "Food and beverage manufacturer" has the same meaning as
5338 provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

5339 (13) "Hemp" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-61l, as
5340 amended by this act;

5341 (14) "Hemp producer" means producer, as defined in section 22-61l,
5342 as amended by this act;

5343 (15) "Hemp products" has the same meaning as provided in section
5344 22-61l, as amended by this act;

5345 (16) "High-THC beverage" means a beverage that (A) is not an
5346 alcoholic beverage, (B) is intended for human consumption, (C)
5347 contains, or is advertised, labeled or offered for sale as containing, total
5348 THC per container that is greater than [three milligrams] the maximum
5349 total THC per container allowable for an infused beverage, and (D)
5350 contains THC solely derived from hemp (i) grown by a United States
5351 Department of Agriculture hemp producer licensee under an approved
5352 state or tribal hemp production plan, and (ii) with a total THC
5353 concentration of not more than three-tenths per cent on a dry-weight

5354 basis or by volume, as applicable;

5355 (17) "Hybrid retailer" has the same meaning as provided in section
5356 21a-420, as amended by this act;

5357 (18) "Infused beverage" means a beverage that (A) is not an alcoholic
5358 beverage, (B) is intended for human consumption, and (C) contains, or
5359 is advertised, labeled or offered for sale as containing, total THC that is
5360 not greater than [three] (i) five milligrams per container, with an
5361 allowable variance for cannabis testing laboratory method uncertainty
5362 of up to plus or minus ten per cent of the reported value for THC, if the
5363 beverage is sold or offered for sale (I) on premises operating under a
5364 package store permit issued under subsection (b) of section 30-20, as
5365 amended by this act, or (II) on the premises of an infused beverage
5366 manufacturer under subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of section 21a-
5367 425a, as amended by this act, or (ii) ten milligrams per container, with
5368 an allowable variance for cannabis testing laboratory method
5369 uncertainty of up to plus or minus ten per cent of the reported value for
5370 THC, if the beverage is sold or offered for sale at a dispensary facility,
5371 hybrid retailer or retailer;

5372 (19) "Infused beverage manufacturer" means a person licensed by the
5373 Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to section 21a-425a, as
5374 amended by this act;

5375 (20) "Infused beverage wholesaler" (A) means a person that has been
5376 issued an infused beverage wholesaler license under section 21a-425e, as
5377 amended by this act, and (B) does not include the holder of a
5378 wholesaler permit or a wholesaler permit for beer issued under section
5379 30-17;

5380 [(21) "Legacy infused beverage" means a beverage that (A) is not an
5381 alcoholic beverage, (B) is intended for human consumption, (C)
5382 contains, or is advertised, labeled or offered for sale as containing, THC,
5383 and (D) as of June 30, 2024, is in compliance with (i) the provisions of
5384 RERACA, and (ii) the policies and procedures issued by the
5385 Commissioner of Consumer Protection to implement, and any

- 5386 regulations adopted pursuant to, RERACA;]
- 5387 [(22)] (21) "Micro-cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in
5388 section 21a-420, as amended by this act;
- 5389 [(23)] (22) "Manufacturer hemp product" has the same meaning as
5390 provided in section 22-61l, as amended by this act;
- 5391 [(24)] (23) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-
5392 420, as amended by this act;
- 5393 [(25)] (24) "Producer" has the same meaning as provided in section
5394 21a-420, as amended by this act;
- 5395 [(26)] (25) "Product manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided
5396 in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;
- 5397 [(27)] (26) "RERACA" has the same meaning as provided in section
5398 21a-420, as amended by this act;
- 5399 [(28)] (27) "Retailer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-
5400 420, as amended by this act;
- 5401 [(29)] (28) "THC" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-
5402 240, as amended by this act; and
- 5403 [(30)] (29) "Total THC" has the same meaning as provided in section
5404 21a-240, as amended by this act.
- 5405 Sec. 94. Section 21a-425a of the 2026 supplement to the general
5406 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
5407 (*Effective October 1, 2026*):
- 5408 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 22-61m, as amended
5409 by this act, and 22-61n, as amended by this act, and except as provided
5410 in subsection (c) of this section, no person shall [, on or after October 1,
5411 2024,] manufacture any infused beverage that is intended to be sold or
5412 offered for sale in this state unless such person has received an infused

5413 beverage manufacturer license issued by the Commissioner of
5414 Consumer Protection pursuant to this section.

5415 (b) A person seeking an infused beverage manufacturer license under
5416 this section shall submit to the Department of Consumer Protection, in
5417 a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer
5418 Protection, an application accompanied by an application fee in the
5419 amount of five thousand dollars. Each license issued pursuant to this
5420 section shall be valid for a period of one year, and shall be renewable for
5421 additional one-year periods upon submission of a renewal application
5422 in the manner, and payment of a renewal fee in the amount, set forth for
5423 an initial application under this subsection. All fees collected under this
5424 subsection shall be deposited in the consumer protection enforcement
5425 account established in section 21a-8a.

5426 (c) (1) A cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer
5427 or product manufacturer, or a producer that has received expanded
5428 authorization to engage in the adult use cannabis market under the
5429 producer's license issued pursuant to section 21a-408i, as amended by
5430 this act, may [, beginning on October 1, 2024,] manufacture infused
5431 beverages in this state that are intended to be sold or offered for sale in
5432 this state if such cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage
5433 manufacturer, product manufacturer or producer submits to the
5434 Department of Consumer Protection, in a form and manner prescribed
5435 by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, a written request to
5436 manufacture such infused beverages, and the commissioner approves
5437 such written request.

5438 (2) A cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer,
5439 product manufacturer or producer that receives approval from the
5440 Commissioner of Consumer Protection under subdivision (1) of this
5441 subsection shall be subject to all provisions of this section, and all
5442 regulations, policies and procedures adopted or issued pursuant to
5443 subsection [(k)] (l) of this section, applicable to infused beverage
5444 manufacturers, except no such cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and
5445 beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer or producer shall be

5446 subject to the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

5447 (d) (1) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, no] An infused beverage
5448 manufacturer shall only obtain [any] hemp, [product] a hemp product
5449 or an intermediate hemp derivative for the purpose of manufacturing
5450 any infused beverage that is intended to be sold or offered for sale in
5451 this state unless such hemp product is in the form of hemp oil or an
5452 intermediate hemp derivative, and no such infused beverage
5453 manufacturer shall use any hemp product other than hemp oil or an
5454 intermediate hemp derivative to manufacture any such infused
5455 beverage.

5456 (2) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize the
5457 interstate transportation of any product in violation of federal law,
5458 including, but not limited to, the United States Agricultural Marketing
5459 Act of 1946, 7 USC 1639o et seq., as amended from time to time, and no
5460 intermediate hemp derivative shall be further distributed for resale.

5461 [(2) Beginning on October 1, 2024, no] (3) No infused beverage
5462 manufacturer shall obtain any hemp [oil] for the purpose of
5463 manufacturing any infused beverage that is intended to be sold or
5464 offered for sale in this state unless such hemp: [oil]:

5465 (A) Is derived from hemp;

5466 (B)] (A) (i) Was extracted from hemp grown by (I) a hemp producer,
5467 as evidenced by a certificate of authenticity issued by the hemp
5468 producer, or (II) a licensed hemp grower regulated by a state, territory
5469 or federally recognized Indian tribe, and in accordance with a state or
5470 tribal plan approved by the United States Department of Agriculture, as
5471 evidenced by a certificate of authenticity issued by such licensed hemp
5472 grower, or (ii) was extracted (I) by a person who is actively credentialed
5473 by a state or federally recognized Indian tribe to extract hemp, and (II)
5474 in a facility that is credentialed by a state or federally recognized Indian
5475 tribe; and

5476 [(C)] (B) Was extracted from hemp by using (i) a Class 3 residual

5477 solvent within the meaning of the most recent United States
5478 Pharmacopeia, Chapter 467, as amended from time to time, (ii) a solvent
5479 generally recognized as safe pursuant to the Federal Food, Drug and
5480 Cosmetic Act, or (iii) a solvent approved by the Department of
5481 Consumer Protection and posted on the department's Internet web site.

5482 [(3) Beginning on October 1, 2024, each] (4) Each infused beverage
5483 manufacturer that manufactures any infused beverage that is intended
5484 to be sold or offered for sale in this state shall:

5485 (A) Not manufacture any such infused beverage with total THC that
5486 exceeds [three] (i) five milligrams per container, with an allowable
5487 variance for cannabis testing laboratory method uncertainty of up to
5488 plus or minus ten per cent of the reported value for THC, if the beverage
5489 is to be sold or offered for sale (I) on premises operating under a package
5490 store permit issued under subsection (b) of section 30-20, as amended
5491 by this act, or (II) on the premises of such infused beverage
5492 manufacturer under subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of this section, or
5493 (ii) ten milligrams per container, with an allowable variance for cannabis
5494 testing laboratory method uncertainty of up to plus or minus ten per
5495 cent of the reported value for THC, if the beverage is to be sold or offered
5496 for sale at a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer;

5497 (B) Manufacture such infused beverage by using equipment that is
5498 exclusively used to manufacture an infused beverage or prepared in
5499 accordance with good manufacturing practices as set forth in 21 CFR
5500 Parts 110 and 111, as amended from time to time, as applicable; and

5501 (C) Ensure that all hemp oil and intermediate hemp derivative such
5502 infused beverage manufacturer possesses to manufacture such infused
5503 beverage is (i) stored in a secure, locked location separate from any
5504 cannabis, (ii) clearly and conspicuously labeled as hemp oil or
5505 intermediate hemp derivative solely for use in manufacturing an
5506 infused beverage, and (iii) solely used for the purpose of manufacturing
5507 an infused beverage.

5508 (e) (1) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, no] No infused beverage that is

5509 sold or offered for sale in this state shall include (A) any additive that (i)
5510 is psychotropic, or (ii) could increase the potency, toxicity or addictive
5511 properties of the infused beverage, including, but not limited to, caffeine
5512 other than caffeine naturally occurring in chocolate, coffee or tea, or (B)
5513 total THC that exceeds [three] (i) five milligrams per container, with an
5514 allowable variance for cannabis testing laboratory method uncertainty
5515 of up to plus or minus ten per cent of the reported value for THC, if the
5516 beverage is sold or offered for sale (I) on premises operating under a
5517 package store permit issued under subsection (b) of section 30-20, as
5518 amended by this act, or (II) on the premises of such infused beverage
5519 manufacturer under subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of this section, or
5520 (ii) ten milligrams per container, with an allowable variance for cannabis
5521 testing laboratory method uncertainty of up to plus or minus ten per
5522 cent of the reported value for THC, if the beverage is sold or offered for
5523 sale at a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer.

5524 (2) (A) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, each] Each lot of an infused
5525 beverage in final form shall be tested by a cannabis testing laboratory or
5526 a similarly qualified laboratory that is located in, and licensed by,
5527 another state. A statistically significant number of samples shall be
5528 collected from such lot and submitted to the cannabis testing laboratory
5529 or out-of-state laboratory for final product testing in a manner approved
5530 by the Department of Consumer Protection. Such sampling and final
5531 product testing shall be conducted by using a representative sample of
5532 such lot and by collecting a minimum number of sample increments
5533 relative to the size of such lot.

5534 (B) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, no] No infused beverage shall be
5535 sold or offered for sale in this state unless the infused beverage meets (i)
5536 the laboratory testing standards for cannabis established in, and any
5537 regulations, policies and procedures adopted or issued pursuant to,
5538 section 21a-421j, as amended by this act, or (ii) such other testing
5539 standards as may be approved by the Department of Consumer
5540 Protection and posted on the department's Internet web site.

5541 (3) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, no] No infused beverage sold or

5542 offered for sale in this state shall be packaged, labeled or advertised in
5543 any manner that is likely to mislead an individual by incorporating any
5544 statement, brand, design, representation, picture, illustration or other
5545 depiction that:

5546 (A) Bears a reasonable resemblance to trademarked or characteristic
5547 packaging of (i) cannabis offered for sale (I) in this state by a cannabis
5548 establishment licensed in this state, or (II) on tribal land by a tribal-
5549 credentialed cannabis entity, or (ii) a commercially available product
5550 other than a cannabis product; or

5551 (B) Appeals to individuals who are younger than twenty-one years of
5552 age by, among other things, (i) making use of any spokesperson or
5553 celebrity who appeals to such individuals, (ii) depicting any individual
5554 who is younger than twenty-five years of age consuming cannabis or an
5555 infused beverage, (iii) including any object, such as a toy, character or
5556 cartoon character, which suggests the presence of any individual who is
5557 younger than twenty-one years of age, or (iv) making use of any other
5558 method that is designed to appeal to any individual who is younger
5559 than twenty-one years of age.

5560 (4) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, each] Each infused beverage
5561 container sold or offered for sale in this state shall prominently display
5562 (A) a symbol, in a size of not less than one-half inch by one-half inch and
5563 in a format approved by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection,
5564 that indicates that such infused beverage is not legal or safe for
5565 individuals younger than twenty-one years of age, and (B) a symbol that
5566 satisfies ASTM International standard D8441.

5567 (f) (1) No infused beverage manufacturer shall sell an infused
5568 beverage to any person in this state other than (A) a dispensary facility,
5569 (B) a hybrid retailer, (C) a retailer, (D) the holder of a wholesaler permit
5570 or a wholesaler permit for beer issued under section 30-17, [or] (E) an
5571 infused beverage wholesaler, or (F) a consumer for off-premises
5572 consumption under subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of this section.

5573 (2) A dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer, before selling an

5574 infused beverage to a consumer in this state, a wholesaler permittee
5575 under section 30-17, before selling an infused beverage to a package
5576 store permittee under subsection (b) of section 30-20, as amended by this
5577 act, or an infused beverage wholesaler, before selling an infused
5578 beverage to a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer or a package
5579 store permittee under subsection (b) of section 30-20, as amended by this
5580 act, shall, based on a representative sample of the infused beverage
5581 containers included in the shipment that includes such infused
5582 beverage, (A) verify that the infused beverages included in such
5583 shipment satisfy the requirements established in subdivision (3) of
5584 subsection (e) of this section and any regulations adopted, and policies
5585 and procedures issued, pursuant to subsection [(k)] (l) of this section,
5586 and (B) for the purpose of preserving public health and safety, verify
5587 that the infused beverages included in such shipment were
5588 manufactured in accordance with requirements that are substantially
5589 similar to the requirements established in subsections (d) and (e) of this
5590 section and any regulations adopted, and policies and procedures
5591 issued, pursuant to subsection [(k)] (l) of this section if such infused
5592 beverages were manufactured (i) in a facility located in, and regulated
5593 by, another state, and (ii) by a person who is regulated as a food or
5594 nonalcoholic beverage manufacturer.

5595 (g) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, no] No cannabis establishment or
5596 infused beverage manufacturer, or agent or employee of a cannabis
5597 establishment or infused beverage manufacturer, shall gift or transfer
5598 any infused beverage to a consumer, at no cost to the consumer, as part
5599 of a commercial transaction.

5600 (h) (1) An infused beverage manufacturer may engage in the retail
5601 sale of beverages to be consumed on the premises operating under the
5602 license issued to the infused beverage manufacturer pursuant to this
5603 section, provided (A) such beverages are manufactured on such
5604 premises in accordance with applicable law, (B) such sales are made,
5605 and beverages are consumed, (i) in a room or area that is physically
5606 separated from the room or area in which the infused beverage
5607 manufacturer manufactures infused beverages, and (ii) in accordance

5608 with applicable law, and (C) no such beverage is an infused beverage,
5609 an alcoholic beverage or contains THC.

5610 (2) (A) An infused beverage manufacturer may engage in the retail
5611 sale of infused beverages to be consumed off the premises operating
5612 under the license issued to the infused beverage manufacturer pursuant
5613 to this section, provided (i) such infused beverages are (I) manufactured
5614 on such premises in accordance with the provisions of this section, and
5615 (II) sold in accordance with the provisions of this section and section
5616 21a-425b, as amended by this act, (ii) such sales are made in a room or
5617 area that is physically separated from the room or area in which the
5618 infused beverage manufacturer manufactures infused beverages, and
5619 (iii) such infused beverage manufacturer does not sell more than twelve
5620 containers per day to a consumer.

5621 (B) Each infused beverage manufacturer that engages in retail sales
5622 under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall assess a fee of one
5623 dollar on each infused beverage container sold at retail. Such fee shall
5624 not be subject to any sales tax or treated as income pursuant to any
5625 provision of the general statutes. Beginning on April 1, 2027, and every
5626 six months thereafter, each infused beverage manufacturer shall remit
5627 payment to the Department of Consumer Protection for each infused
5628 beverage container sold during the preceding six-month period. The
5629 funds received by the department from infused beverage sales shall be
5630 deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established
5631 in section 21a-8a for the purposes of (i) protecting public health and
5632 safety, (ii) educating consumers and licensees, and (iii) ensuring
5633 compliance with cannabis and liquor control laws.

5634 [(h) Beginning on October 1, 2024, the] (i) The Commissioner of
5635 Consumer Protection may request that an infused beverage
5636 manufacturer submit to the Department of Consumer Protection, in a
5637 form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, documentation
5638 sufficient to demonstrate that the infused beverage manufacturer is in
5639 compliance with the provisions of this section. The infused beverage
5640 manufacturer shall promptly provide such documentation to the

5641 department.

5642 [(i) Beginning on October 1, 2024, each] (j) Each infused beverage
5643 manufacturer shall be subject to the investigation and enforcement
5644 provisions set forth in section 21a-421p.

5645 [(j) Beginning on October 1, 2024, if] (k) If the Commissioner of
5646 Consumer Protection determines, after consulting with the Attorney
5647 General, that the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, P.L. 115-334, as
5648 amended from time to time, has been amended in a manner that
5649 conflicts with any provision of this section, the commissioner shall
5650 prepare and submit a report, in coordination with the Attorney General
5651 and in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
5652 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
5653 matters relating to consumer protection. Such report shall, at a
5654 minimum, set forth the scope of such conflict and recommendations to
5655 resolve such conflict. The commissioner shall submit such report: (1)
5656 Not later than thirty days after the United States Department of
5657 Agriculture announces such amendment, if the General Assembly is in
5658 session; or (2) not later than sixty days after the United States
5659 Department of Agriculture announces such amendment, if the General
5660 Assembly is not in session.

5661 [(k)] (l) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt
5662 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
5663 implement the provisions of this section. Notwithstanding the
5664 requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, the commissioner
5665 shall, prior to adopting such regulations and in order to effectuate the
5666 provisions of this section, issue policies and procedures to implement
5667 the provisions of this section that shall have the force and effect of law.
5668 The commissioner shall post all policies and procedures on the
5669 Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site, and submit
5670 such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for posting on
5671 the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date
5672 of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer
5673 be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or

5674 procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or forty-eight
5675 months from July 1, 2024, if such regulations have not been submitted
5676 to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under
5677 section 4-170.

5678 [(l) Beginning on October 1, 2024, and following] (m) Following a
5679 hearing conducted in accordance with chapter 54, the Commissioner of
5680 Consumer Protection may impose an administrative civil penalty, not
5681 to exceed five thousand dollars per violation, and suspend, revoke or
5682 place conditions upon any infused beverage manufacturer that violates
5683 any provision of this section or any regulation adopted pursuant to
5684 subsection [(k)] (l) of this section. All administrative civil penalties
5685 collected under this subsection shall be deposited in the consumer
5686 protection enforcement account established in section 21a-8a.

5687 [(m) Beginning on October 1, 2024, the] (n) The Commissioner of
5688 Consumer Protection may, pursuant to section 4-182, summarily
5689 suspend any credential the commissioner or Department of Consumer
5690 Protection has issued to any person who violates any provision of this
5691 section.

5692 [(n)] (o) Any violation of the provisions of this section shall be
5693 deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of
5694 section 42-110b.

5695 Sec. 95. Section 21a-425b of the general statutes is repealed and the
5696 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

5697 (a) (1) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, no] No infused beverage shall
5698 be sold, offered for sale or distributed in this state unless:

5699 (A) The infused beverage is sold or offered for sale (i) on premises
5700 operating under a package store permit issued pursuant to subsection
5701 (b) of section 30-20, as amended by this act, [or] (ii) at a dispensary
5702 facility, hybrid retailer or retailer, or (iii) on the premises of an infused
5703 beverage manufacturer under subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of
5704 section 21a-425a, as amended by this act;

5705 (B) If the infused beverage is sold at a dispensary facility, hybrid
5706 retailer or retailer, the infused beverage is stored and displayed
5707 separately from any cannabis, in the same manner provided for
5708 manufacturer hemp products, in accordance with section 21a-409, as
5709 amended by this act, 21a-420s or 21a-420r, as amended by this act,
5710 respectively; and

5711 (C) The infused beverage meets the standards set forth for
5712 manufacturer hemp products in subsections (v) and (x) of section 22-
5713 61m.

5714 (2) [Beginning on July 1, 2024, no] No infused beverage shall be sold,
5715 or offered for sale, at retail to any individual in this state by way of any
5716 indirect means, including, but not limited to, by way of mail or any
5717 telephonic or other electronic means.

5718 (b) No infused beverage shall be sold to any individual who is
5719 younger than twenty-one years of age. No owner, agent or employee of
5720 a package store permitted under subsection (b) of section 30-20, as
5721 amended by this act, [or] of a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or
5722 retailer [,] or of an infused beverage manufacturer shall sell any infused
5723 beverage to an individual without first verifying the individual's age
5724 with a valid government-issued driver's license or identity card to
5725 establish that such individual is twenty-one years of age or older.

5726 (c) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, no] No person shall sell, or offer
5727 for sale, any infused beverage in any container containing less than
5728 twelve fluid ounces, or any packaging comprised of more than [four]
5729 twelve containers.

5730 [(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (c),
5731 inclusive, of this section, a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer, retailer or
5732 package store that has received a waiver from the Commissioner of
5733 Consumer Protection under section 21a-425d may, during the period
5734 beginning on July 1, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, sell legacy
5735 infused beverages in accordance with such waiver and the requirements
5736 set forth in section 21a-425d.]

5737 [(e)] (d) Any violation of the provisions of subsections (a) to (c),
5738 inclusive, of this section shall be deemed an unfair or deceptive trade
5739 practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b.

5740 Sec. 96. Subsection (f) of section 21a-425e of the 2026 supplement to
5741 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
5742 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

5743 (f) Each infused beverage wholesaler shall assess a fee of one dollar
5744 on each infused beverage container sold to the holder of a package store
5745 permit issued under subsection (b) of section 30-20, as amended by this
5746 act, or to a retailer, hybrid retailer or dispensary facility. Such fee shall
5747 not be subject to any sales tax or treated as income pursuant to any
5748 provision of the general statutes. [Beginning on October 1, 2025, and
5749 every six months thereafter] On the first days of October and April,
5750 annually, each infused beverage wholesaler shall remit payment to the
5751 Department of Consumer Protection for each infused beverage
5752 container sold during the preceding six-month period. The funds
5753 received by the department from infused beverage sales shall be
5754 deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established
5755 in section 21a-8a for the purposes of (1) protecting public health and
5756 safety, (2) educating consumers and licensees, and (3) ensuring
5757 compliance with cannabis and liquor control laws.

5758 Sec. 97. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 21a-425f of the 2026
5759 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
5760 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

5761 (a) [On and after January 1, 2026, no] No person shall manufacture a
5762 high-THC beverage in this state unless such person is an infused
5763 beverage manufacturer that has received a high-THC beverage
5764 endorsement issued by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection
5765 pursuant to this section. A high-THC beverage endorsement shall
5766 authorize the infused beverage manufacturer to manufacture high-THC
5767 beverages for sale exclusively outside of this state. No infused beverage
5768 manufacturer shall advertise, offer or sell any high-THC beverage in this

5769 state or offer or sell any high-THC beverage directly to any individual.
5770 An infused beverage manufacturer shall verify that purchasers of high-
5771 THC beverages intend to engage in the commercial resale of such
5772 beverages exclusively outside of this state.

5773 (b) [Beginning on January 1, 2026, an] An infused beverage
5774 manufacturer seeking a high-THC beverage endorsement under this
5775 section shall submit an application to the Department of Consumer
5776 Protection in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of
5777 Consumer Protection.

5778 Sec. 98. Subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 21a-426 of the 2026
5779 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
5780 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

5781 (7) "Moderate-THC hemp product" (A) means a manufacturer hemp
5782 product that has a total THC, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended
5783 by this act, concentration of not less than one-half of one milligram, and
5784 not more than five milligrams, on a per-container basis, and (B) does not
5785 include [(i)] an infused beverage, as defined in section 21a-425, as
5786 amended by this act; [, or (ii) a legacy infused beverage, as defined in
5787 section 21a-425;] and

5788 Sec. 99. Section 22-61l of the general statutes is repealed and the
5789 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

5790 (a) For the purpose of this section and section 22-61m, as amended by
5791 this act, the following terms have the same meaning as provided in 7
5792 CFR 990.1, as amended from time to time: "Acceptable hemp THC level",
5793 "Agricultural marketing service", "Audit", "Cannabis", "Conviction",
5794 "Corrective action plan", "Culpable mental state greater than
5795 negligence", "Decarboxylated", "Decarboxylation", "Disposal", "Dry
5796 weight basis", "Gas chromatography", "Geospatial location", "Handle",
5797 "Liquid chromatography", "Immature plants", "Information sharing
5798 system", "Measurement of uncertainty", "Negligence",
5799 "Phytocannabinoid", "Postdecarboxylation", "Remediation", "Reverse
5800 distributor" and "Total THC". In addition, for the purpose of this section,

5801 [and] section 22-61m, as amended by this act, and sections 100 and 101
5802 of this act:

5803 (1) "Cannabidiol" or "CBD" means the nonpsychotropic compound by
5804 the same name;

5805 (2) "Cannabis" (A) means all parts of any plant or species of the genus
5806 cannabis, or any infra specific taxon thereof, whether growing or not;
5807 (B) includes (i) every resin extracted from any part of such plant,
5808 including, but not limited to, every resin extracted from (I) the mature
5809 stalks of such plant, (II) the fiber produced from the mature stalks of
5810 such plant, or (III) the oil or cake made from the seeds of such plant, (ii)
5811 every other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or
5812 preparation of such plant or its resin, and (iii) every (I) high-THC hemp
5813 product, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended by this act, (II)
5814 manufactured cannabinoid, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended
5815 by this act, or (III) cannabinol or cannabidiol and chemical compounds
5816 which are similar to cannabinol or cannabidiol in chemical structure or
5817 which are similar thereto in physiological effect, which are controlled
5818 substances under this chapter, except cannabidiol derived from hemp,
5819 that is not a high-THC hemp product; and (C) does not include (i) the
5820 mature stalks of such plant, (ii) the fiber produced from the mature
5821 stalks of such plant, (iii) the oil or cake made from the seeds of such
5822 plant, (iv) any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture
5823 or preparation of the mature stalks of such plant, (v) the seeds of such
5824 plant, (vi) hemp (I) with a total THC, as defined in section 21a-240, as
5825 amended by this act, concentration of not more than three-tenths per
5826 cent on a dry-weight basis, and (II) that is not a high-THC hemp
5827 product, (vii) cannabinol, cannabigerol, cannabichromene or any other
5828 minor cannabinoid derived from hemp, (viii) any substance approved
5829 by the federal Food and Drug Administration or successor agency as a
5830 drug and reclassified in any schedule of controlled substances or
5831 unscheduled by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or
5832 successor agency that is included in the same schedule designated by
5833 the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or successor agency, or
5834 (ix) any infused beverage, as defined in section 21a-425, as amended by

5835 this act;

5836 [(2)] (3) "Certificate of analysis" means a certificate from a laboratory
5837 describing the results of the laboratory's testing of a sample;

5838 [(3)] (4) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture, or
5839 the commissioner's designated agent;

5840 [(4)] (5) "Cultivate" means to plant, grow, harvest, handle and store a
5841 plant or crop;

5842 [(5)] (6) "Federal act" means the United States Agricultural Marketing
5843 Act of 1946, 7 USC 1639o et seq., as amended from time to time;

5844 [(6)] (7) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

5845 [(7)] (8) "Hemp" has the same meaning as provided in the federal act;

5846 [(8)] (9) "Hemp products" means all manufacturer hemp products
5847 and producer hemp products;

5848 [(9)] (10) "Independent testing laboratory" means a facility:

5849 (A) For which no person who has any direct or indirect financial or
5850 managerial interest in the laboratory and also has any direct or indirect
5851 interest in a facility that:

5852 (i) Produces, distributes, manufactures or sells hemp or hemp
5853 products, or [marijuana] cannabis in any state or territory of the United
5854 States; or

5855 (ii) Cultivates, processes, distributes, dispenses or sells [marijuana]
5856 cannabis; and

5857 (B) That is accredited as a laboratory in compliance with section 21a-
5858 408-59 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies;

5859 (11) "Infused beverage" has the same meaning as provided in section
5860 21a-425, as amended by this act;

5861 (12) "Infused beverage manufacturer" has the same meaning as
5862 provided in section 21a-425, as amended by this act;

5863 (13) "Intermediate hemp derivative" means an oil or concentrate that
5864 (A) is extracted directly and exclusively from raw hemp plant material,
5865 (B) contains a total THC, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended by
5866 this act, concentration of more than 0.3 per cent on a dry weight basis,
5867 and (C) is extracted by (i) adding heat, (ii) decarboxylation, (iii) adding
5868 (I) a Class 3 organic solvent within the meaning of the most recent
5869 United States Pharmacopeia, Chapter 467, as amended from time to
5870 time, or (II) another solvent approved by the Commissioner of
5871 Consumer Protection, (iv) ethanol extraction, (v) carbon dioxide
5872 extraction, (vi) a solventless extraction method, including, but not
5873 limited to, the use of ice water, rosin pressing, dry sifting or steam
5874 distillation, or (vii) an extraction process not set forth in subparagraphs
5875 (C)(i) to (C)(vi), inclusive, of this subdivision, provided such extraction
5876 process has been approved by the Commissioner of Consumer
5877 Protection;

5878 ~~[(10)]~~ (14) "Laboratory" means a laboratory that meets the
5879 requirements of 7 CFR 990.3 and that is accredited as a testing laboratory
5880 to International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025 by a third-
5881 party accrediting body such as the American Association for Laboratory
5882 Accreditation or the Assured Calibration and Laboratory Accreditation
5883 Select Services;

5884 ~~[(11)]~~ (15) "Law enforcement agency" means the Connecticut State
5885 Police, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, the
5886 Department of Agriculture, the Department of Consumer Protection
5887 Drug Control Division or any other federal, state or local law
5888 enforcement agency or drug suppression unit;

5889 ~~[(12)]~~ (16) "Licensee" means an individual or entity that possesses a
5890 license to produce or manufacture hemp or hemp products in this state;

5891 ~~[(13)]~~ (17) "Manufacture" means the conversion of the hemp plant into
5892 a by-product or an extract by means of (A) adding heat, [solvents or] (B)

5893 decarboxylation, (C) adding (i) a Class 3 organic solvent within the
5894 meaning of the most recent United States Pharmacopeia, Chapter 467,
5895 as amended from time to time, or (ii) another solvent approved by the
5896 Commissioner of Consumer Protection, (D) ethanol extraction, (E)
5897 carbon dioxide extraction, (F) a solventless extraction method,
5898 including, but not limited to, the use of ice water, rosin pressing, dry
5899 sifting or steam distillation, or (G) any method of extraction that
5900 modifies the original composition of the plant for the purpose of
5901 creating a manufacturer hemp product for commercial or research
5902 purposes;

5903 [(14)] (18) "Manufacturer" means a person in the state licensed by the
5904 Commissioner of Consumer Protection to manufacture, handle, store
5905 and market manufacturer hemp products pursuant to the provisions of
5906 section 22-61m, as amended by this act, and any regulation adopted
5907 pursuant to section 22-61m, as amended by this act;

5908 [(15)] "Marijuana" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-
5909 240;]

5910 [(16)] (19) "Market" or "marketing" means promoting, distributing or
5911 selling a hemp product within the state, in another state or outside of
5912 the United States and includes efforts to advertise and gather
5913 information about the needs or preferences of potential consumers or
5914 suppliers;

5915 [(17)] (20) "On-site manager" means the individual designated by the
5916 producer license applicant or producer responsible for on-site
5917 management and operations of a licensed producer;

5918 [(18)] (21) "Pesticide" has the same meaning as "pesticide chemical" as
5919 provided in section 21a-92;

5920 [(19)] (22) "Lot" means a contiguous area in a field, greenhouse or
5921 indoor growing structure containing the same variety or strain of hemp
5922 throughout the area;

5923 [(20)] (23) "Post-harvest sample" means a representative sample of the
5924 form of hemp taken from the harvested hemp from a particular lot's
5925 harvest that is collected in accordance with the procedures established
5926 by the commissioner;

5927 [(21)] (24) "Pre-harvest sample" means a composite, representative
5928 portion from plants in a hemp lot, that is collected in accordance with
5929 the procedures established by the commissioner;

5930 [(22)] (25) "Produce" means to cultivate hemp or create any producer
5931 hemp product;

5932 [(23)] (26) "State plan" means a state plan, as described in the federal
5933 act and as authorized pursuant to this section;

5934 [(24)] (27) "THC" means delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol;

5935 [(25)] (28) "Controlled Substances Act" or "CSA" means the
5936 Controlled Substances Act as codified in 21 USC 801 et seq.;

5937 [(26)] (29) "Criminal history report" means the fingerprint-based state
5938 and national criminal history record information obtained in accordance
5939 with section 29-17a;

5940 [(27)] (30) "Drug Enforcement Administration" or "DEA" means the
5941 United States Drug Enforcement Administration;

5942 [(28)] (31) "Farm service agency" or "FSA" means an agency of the
5943 United States Department of Agriculture;

5944 [(29)] (32) "Key participant" means a sole proprietor, a partner in
5945 partnership or a person with executive managerial control in an entity,
5946 including persons such as a chief executive officer, chief operating
5947 officer and chief financial officer;

5948 [(30)] (33) "Manufacturer hemp product" (A) means a commodity
5949 manufactured from the hemp plant, for commercial or research
5950 purposes, that (i) is intended for human ingestion, inhalation,

5951 absorption or other internal consumption, [that] and (ii) contains a THC
5952 concentration of not more than 0.3 per cent on a dry weight basis or per
5953 volume or weight of such manufacturer hemp product, and (B) does not
5954 include an infused beverage; [, as defined in section 21a-425;]

5955 [(31)] (34) "Producer" means an individual or entity licensed by the
5956 commissioner to produce and market producer hemp products
5957 pursuant to the federal act, the state plan, the provisions of this section
5958 and the regulations adopted pursuant to this section;

5959 [(32)] (35) "Producer hemp product" means any of the following
5960 produced in this state: Raw hemp product, fiber-based hemp product or
5961 animal hemp food product, and each of which contains a THC
5962 concentration of not more than 0.3 per cent on a dry weight basis or per
5963 volume or weight of such producer hemp product;

5964 [(33)] (36) "USDA" means the United States Department of
5965 Agriculture;

5966 [(34)] (37) "Entity" means a corporation, joint stock company,
5967 association, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited
5968 liability company, irrevocable trust, estate, charitable organization or
5969 other similar organization, including any such organization
5970 participating in the hemp production as a partner in a general
5971 partnership, a participant in a joint venture or a participant in a similar
5972 organization; and

5973 [(35)] (38) "Homogenize" means to blend hemp into a mixture that
5974 has a uniform quality and content throughout such mixture.

5975 (b) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall establish and operate an
5976 agricultural pilot program, as defined in 7 USC 5940, as amended from
5977 time to time, for hemp research to enable the department, and its
5978 licensees, to study methods of producing and marketing hemp. All
5979 producer licensees licensed pursuant to this section shall be participants
5980 in the state agricultural pilot program for hemp research. Until such
5981 time as said commissioner adopts regulations, in accordance with the

5982 provisions of chapter 54, the Department of Agriculture shall utilize
5983 procedures and guidance policies that the commissioner deems to be
5984 consistent with the provisions of 7 USC 5940, as amended from time to
5985 time, provided such procedures and guidance policies shall, at a
5986 minimum, require: (1) The commissioner to certify and register any site
5987 used to grow hemp, (2) any person who produces hemp to produce
5988 plants that meet the definition of hemp and verify such, (3) the
5989 maintenance of records by any person who grows hemp and the
5990 availability of inspection of such records by the commissioner, and (4)
5991 verification of compliance with the definition of hemp by a laboratory,
5992 at the expense of any licensee. The provisions of this section shall take
5993 precedence over any such procedure or guidance policy. Participants in
5994 the state agricultural pilot program for hemp research shall be licensed
5995 in accordance with the provisions of this section. Such pilot program
5996 shall operate until the earlier of the date of a fully approved state plan
5997 under the federal act, as described in this section, or the date of repeal
5998 of the federal law permitting the state's agricultural pilot program for
5999 hemp research.

6000 (c) (1) The commissioner shall prepare a state plan in accordance with
6001 the federal act and 7 CFR 990.3, for approval by the Governor, in
6002 consultation with the office of the Chief State's Attorney and the
6003 Attorney General. The state plan, once approved by the Governor and
6004 the Attorney General, shall be submitted by the commissioner to the
6005 United States Secretary of Agriculture for such secretary's approval. The
6006 commissioner shall have the authority to amend the state plan, in
6007 consultation with the Governor, the Attorney General and the office of
6008 the Chief State's Attorney, as necessary to comply with the federal act.

6009 (2) The commissioner shall operate the state plan, which shall
6010 include, at a minimum, the following requirements:

6011 (A) The sampling of hemp shall comply, at a minimum, with 7 CFR
6012 990.3 and be performed by an authorized sampling agent;

6013 (B) The testing of hemp shall comply, at a minimum, with 7 CFR

6014 990.3;

6015 (C) The control, remediation and disposal of noncompliant cannabis
6016 plants shall comply with 7 CFR 990.27 and 7 CFR 990.3;

6017 (D) The department shall comply with all recordkeeping and
6018 reporting requirements in the federal act, and 7 CFR 990.1 to 7 CFR
6019 990.71, inclusive;

6020 (E) The department shall comply with enforcement procedures in 7
6021 CFR 990.6;

6022 (F) The department shall conduct annual inspections of, at a
6023 minimum, a random sample of producers to verify that hemp is not
6024 produced in violation of the federal act, the state plan and the provisions
6025 of this section, and shall enforce any violation as provided for in the
6026 federal act and as defined in 7 CFR 990.6;

6027 (G) Producers shall report their required license, lot and hemp crop
6028 acreage information to FSA, in accordance with the requirements in 7
6029 CFR 990.7; and

6030 (H) Producers shall report to the commissioner the total acreage of
6031 hemp planted, harvested and, if applicable, disposed of or remediated,
6032 and such other information as the commissioner may require.

6033 (3) All sampling and testing of hemp shall be done using protocols
6034 that are at least as statistically valid as the USDA's published protocols
6035 for sampling and testing of hemp, which protocols shall be posted on
6036 the department's Internet web site. During a scheduled sample
6037 collection, the producer, or an authorized representative of the
6038 producer, shall be present at the lot. A producer shall not harvest the
6039 cannabis crop prior to the taking of samples. Samples of hemp plant
6040 material from one lot shall not be commingled with hemp plant material
6041 from other lots. Lots tested and not certified by a laboratory at or below
6042 the acceptable hemp THC level shall be handled, remediated and
6043 disposed of in accordance with the federal act, the provisions of this

6044 section and the state plan, as applicable.

6045 (4) The commissioner shall collect, maintain and provide to the
6046 USDA, on a timely basis, and not less than once per month, license status
6047 of each hemp producer, contact information for each hemp producer
6048 licensed in the state, including lot legal descriptions and locations, and
6049 any changes to such information. The commissioner shall also report to
6050 the USDA, on a timely basis, and not less than once per month, all
6051 required hemp test results and disposal information for all
6052 nonconforming hemp plants and plant material. Such information shall
6053 not include state and federal fingerprint-based records pursuant to
6054 section 29-17a.

6055 (d) The commissioner shall have the authority to enforce the federal
6056 act, as amended from time to time, the state plan, this section and any
6057 regulations adopted in accordance with the federal act and chapter 54
6058 for hemp production in the state. The commissioner shall have the
6059 authority to enforce the applicable standards for producer hemp
6060 products. The commissioner may consult, collaborate and enter into
6061 cooperative agreements with any federal or state agency, municipality
6062 or political subdivision of the state concerning application of the
6063 provisions of the federal act and the regulations adopted pursuant to the
6064 federal act, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this
6065 section.

6066 (e) Any person who produces hemp shall: (1) Be licensed by the
6067 commissioner; (2) comply with the federal act, the state plan, the
6068 provisions of this section and any regulation adopted pursuant to this
6069 section; and (3) transport hemp and hemp samples in a manner and with
6070 such documentation as required by the commissioner.

6071 (f) Any person who sells hemp products shall not be required to be
6072 licensed provided such person only engages in: (1) The retail or
6073 wholesale sale of hemp or hemp products in which no further
6074 producing or manufacturing of the hemp products occurs and the hemp
6075 products are acquired from a person authorized under the laws of this

6076 state or another state, territory or possession of the United States or
6077 another sovereign entity to possess and sell such hemp products; (2) the
6078 acquisition of hemp or hemp products for the sole purpose of product
6079 distribution for resale; or (3) the retail sale of hemp products that are
6080 otherwise authorized under federal or state law.

6081 (g) Any applicant for a license pursuant to this section shall meet each
6082 of the following requirements, as applicable:

6083 (1) Each applicant, whether an individual or an entity, shall submit
6084 an application for a license that consists, at a minimum, of the following:
6085 (A) The name, telephone number, electronic mail address, business
6086 address and address of any individual who is the applicant, the full
6087 name of any entity that is the applicant, including any applicable
6088 principal business location and the full name, title and electronic mail
6089 address of each key participant; (B) the name and address of each lot for
6090 the hemp cultivation or producing location; (C) the geospatial location
6091 of each lot by means of global positioning system coordinates and legal
6092 description of each lot used for the hemp cultivation; (D) the acreage
6093 size of each lot where the hemp will be cultivated; (E) written consent
6094 allowing the commissioner to conduct both scheduled and random
6095 inspections of and around the premises on which the hemp is to be
6096 cultivated, harvested, stored and produced; (F) the applicant's employer
6097 identification number or the applicant's Social Security number if an
6098 employer identification number is not available; and (G) any other
6099 information as may be required by the commissioner;

6100 (2) Each individual who is an applicant and each key participant of
6101 any entity applying for a producer license, or renewal thereof, shall
6102 submit to state and national fingerprint-based criminal history records
6103 checks conducted in accordance with section 29-17a, at such individual's
6104 own expense;

6105 (3) No individual, including any key participant of any entity, who
6106 has been convicted of any state or federal felony, related to a controlled
6107 substance, shall be eligible to obtain or hold a producer license for ten

6108 years from the date of the conviction, provided such restriction shall not
6109 apply to any individual who lawfully grew hemp with a license,
6110 registration or authorization under any state pilot program authorized
6111 by section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 before December 20, 2018.
6112 Any individual or entity that materially falsifies any information in an
6113 application pursuant to this section shall be ineligible to obtain a
6114 producer license; and

6115 (4) Each individual or entity who is required by this section to obtain
6116 a producer license shall pay for all costs of sampling, testing, retesting
6117 and resampling any samples at a laboratory for the purpose of
6118 determining the THC concentration level of any cannabis under their
6119 control, or in their possession. Each individual or entity who is required
6120 by this section to obtain a producer license shall pay for all costs of
6121 disposal of all noncompliant cannabis plants under their control, or in
6122 their possession.

6123 (h) Any producer license issued by the commissioner shall expire on
6124 the third following December thirty-first and may be renewed during
6125 the preceding month of October. Such licenses shall not be transferable.

6126 (i) The following fees shall apply for each producer license and
6127 inspection:

6128 (1) A nonrefundable license application fee of fifty dollars, provided
6129 any constituent unit of higher education, state agency or department
6130 shall be exempt from such application fee if such production is for
6131 research purposes;

6132 (2) A nonrefundable triennial producer license fee of four hundred
6133 fifty dollars for up to one acre of planned hemp plantings and thirty
6134 dollars per each additional acre of planned hemp plantings rounded to
6135 the nearest acre, except no license fee charged shall exceed three
6136 thousand dollars, provided any constituent unit of higher education,
6137 state agency or department shall be exempt from such license fee if such
6138 production is for research purposes; and

6139 (3) In the event that resampling by the commissioner is required due
6140 to a test result that shows a violation of any provision of this section or
6141 any regulation adopted pursuant to this section, the licensee shall pay
6142 an inspection fee of fifty dollars. Such fee shall be paid prior to the
6143 inspection and collection of the sample to be used for resampling.

6144 (j) After receipt and review of an application for producer licensure,
6145 the commissioner may grant a triennial license upon a finding that the
6146 applicant meets the applicable requirements. Each producer licensee
6147 shall notify the commissioner of any changes to their application
6148 information, not later than fifteen days after such change. While the
6149 pilot program is in effect, the commissioner may grant a conditional
6150 approval of a producer license, pending receipt of the criminal history
6151 records check required by this section. The commissioner shall assign
6152 each producer with a license or authorization identifier in a format
6153 consistent with 7 CFR 990.3.

6154 (k) Whenever an inspection or investigation conducted by the
6155 commissioner pursuant to this title reveals any violation of the state
6156 plan, this section or any regulation adopted thereunder, the producer
6157 license applicant or respondent, as applicable, shall be notified, in
6158 writing, of such violation and any corrective action to be taken and the
6159 time period within which such corrective action shall be taken. Any such
6160 producer license applicant or respondent may request a hearing,
6161 conducted in accordance with chapter 54, on any such notification. Any
6162 notification issued pursuant to this section shall be made by certified
6163 mail, return receipt requested to the producer license applicant or
6164 respondent's last known address, by in-hand service by the
6165 commissioner or designated agent of the commissioner, electronic mail
6166 service with the consent of the recipient, or by service in accordance
6167 with chapter 896. The commissioner shall report all producer violations
6168 made with a culpable mental state greater than negligence to the United
6169 States Attorney General and the State's Attorney for the judicial district
6170 in which the producer violation occurred.

6171 (l) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the

6172 commissioner's authority to issue a cease and desist order pursuant to
6173 section 22-4d, or an emergency order, in order to respond to a condition
6174 that may present a public health hazard, or issue orders necessary to
6175 effectuate the purposes of this section, including, but not limited to,
6176 orders for the embargo, partial destruction, destruction and release of
6177 hemp or hemp products. Any cease and desist order or an emergency
6178 order shall become effective upon service of such order by the
6179 commissioner. Following service of any such order, subsequent
6180 proceedings shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of section
6181 22-4d and the rules of practice for such agency. Any embargo, partial
6182 destruction, destruction or release order issued pursuant to this section
6183 shall be served by certified mail, return receipt requested to the
6184 respondent's last known address, by in-hand service by the
6185 commissioner or designated agent of the commissioner, or by service in
6186 accordance with chapter 896.

6187 (m) Following a hearing conducted in accordance with chapter 54,
6188 the commissioner may impose an administrative civil penalty, not to
6189 exceed two thousand five hundred dollars per violation, and suspend,
6190 revoke or place conditions upon any producer licensee who violates the
6191 provisions of this section or any regulation adopted pursuant to this
6192 section.

6193 (n) (1) Any individual who produces hemp in this state without
6194 obtaining a license pursuant to this section, or who produces hemp in
6195 this state after having a license suspended or revoked shall have
6196 committed an infraction.

6197 (2) Any entity that produces hemp in this state without obtaining a
6198 license pursuant to this section, produces hemp in violation of this
6199 section or produces hemp in this state after having a license suspended
6200 or revoked may be fined not more than two thousand five hundred
6201 dollars per violation, after a hearing conducted in accordance with
6202 chapter 54.

6203 (o) (1) Any negligent violation, as described in the federal act, of this

6204 section or the state plan shall be subject to enforcement in accordance
6205 with the federal act, and the state plan for negligent violations.

6206 (2) For any negligent violation, a producer shall be required to correct
6207 such negligent violation, by means of a corrective action plan approved
6208 by the commissioner. Each corrective action plan shall include, at a
6209 minimum, a reasonable completion deadline for correction of the
6210 negligent violation, periodic reporting to the commissioner for at least
6211 two years and compliance with the state plan.

6212 (3) Any producer that negligently violates the state plan shall not, as
6213 a result of such negligent violation, be referred by the commissioner for
6214 any criminal enforcement action by the federal, state or local
6215 government.

6216 (4) Any producer that negligently violates the state plan three times
6217 during any five-year period shall be ineligible to produce hemp for a
6218 period of five years beginning on the date of the third violation.

6219 (5) The commissioner shall conduct an inspection to determine if the
6220 corrective action plan for a producer who commits any such negligent
6221 violation was properly implemented.

6222 (p) Any person aggrieved by an order issued pursuant to this section
6223 may appeal to the commissioner in accordance with the provisions of
6224 chapter 54. Such appeal shall be made in writing to the commissioner
6225 and received not later than fifteen days after the date of the order. If no
6226 appeal is made pursuant to this subsection the order shall be final.

6227 (q) (1) All documents submitted under this section shall be subject to
6228 disclosure in accordance with chapter 14, except: (A) Information
6229 depicting or describing (i) the test results of any producer, (ii) the
6230 location of any hemp growing, harvesting, processing or storage
6231 location, or (iii) hemp producer location security schematics; and (B) the
6232 results of any criminal history records check.

6233 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this

6234 subsection, all documents and records submitted or maintained
6235 pursuant to this section shall be disclosed to any law enforcement
6236 agency upon request of such law enforcement agency.

6237 (r) The commissioner may inspect and shall have access to the
6238 buildings, equipment, supplies, vehicles, records, real property and
6239 other information that the commissioner deems necessary to carry out
6240 the commissioner's duties pursuant to this section from any person
6241 participating in producing, handling, storing, marketing or researching
6242 hemp.

6243 (s) All licensees pursuant to this section shall maintain records
6244 required by the federal act, the state plan, this section and any regulation
6245 adopted pursuant to this section. Each licensee shall make such records
6246 available to the department immediately upon request of the
6247 commissioner and in electronic format, if available.

6248 (t) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the
6249 provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section
6250 including, but not limited to, the labeling of producer hemp products.

6251 (u) Whenever the commissioner believes or has reasonable cause to
6252 believe that the actions of a licensee or any employee of a producer
6253 licensee are in violation of the federal act, the state plan, or any state law
6254 concerning the growing, cultivation, handling, transporting or
6255 possession of [marijuana] cannabis, the commissioner shall notify the
6256 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the
6257 Division of State Police.

6258 Sec. 100. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

6259 (1) "Approved manufactured cannabinoid" means a manufactured
6260 cannabinoid, as defined in section 21a-240 of the general statutes, as
6261 amended by this act, that has been approved by the Department of
6262 Consumer Protection and posted on the department's Internet web site;

6263 (2) "Cannabis product" has the same meaning as provided in section
6264 21a-420 of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

6265 (3) "Cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420
6266 of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

6267 (4) "Food and beverage manufacturer" has the same meaning as
6268 provided in section 21a-420 of the general statutes, as amended by this
6269 act;

6270 (5) "Micro-cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in section
6271 21a-420 of the general statutes, as amended by this act; and

6272 (6) "Product manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in
6273 section 21a-420 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

6274 (b) On and after December 1, 2026, a manufacturer may manufacture:

6275 (1) Cannabigerol, cannabiniol or an approved manufactured
6276 cannabinoid, provided the manufacturer offers and sells such
6277 cannabigerol, cannabiniol or approved manufactured cannabinoid
6278 exclusively to a producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product
6279 manufacturer or food and beverage manufacturer; and

6280 (2) Intermediate hemp derivative to be incorporated into a
6281 manufacturer hemp product, provided the manufacturer offers and
6282 sells such intermediate hemp derivative exclusively to a producer,
6283 cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer, food and beverage
6284 manufacturer or infused beverage manufacturer.

6285 (c) (1) On and after December 1, 2026, a producer, cultivator, micro-
6286 cultivator, product manufacturer or food and beverage manufacturer
6287 may purchase cannabigerol, cannabiniol, an approved manufactured
6288 cannabinoid or intermediate hemp derivative from a manufacturer,
6289 provided such cannabigerol, cannabiniol, approved manufactured
6290 cannabinoid or intermediate hemp derivative:

6291 (A) Was manufactured in accordance with the provisions of
6292 subsection (b) of this section; and

6293 (B) Is tracked as a separate batch throughout the manufacturing
6294 process in order to document the disposition of such cannabigerol,
6295 cannabiniol, approved manufactured cannabinoid or intermediate hemp
6296 derivative.

6297 (2) Once cannabigerol, cannabiniol, an approved manufactured
6298 cannabinoid or intermediate hemp derivative is received by a producer,
6299 cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer or food and
6300 beverage manufacturer, such cannabigerol, cannabiniol, approved
6301 manufactured cannabinoid or intermediate hemp derivative shall be
6302 deemed cannabis and comply with the requirements for cannabis
6303 contained in the applicable provisions of the general statutes and any
6304 regulations adopted pursuant to such provisions.

6305 (3) A producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer or
6306 food and beverage manufacturer shall retain:

6307 (A) A copy of the certificate of analysis for the cannabigerol,
6308 cannabiniol, approved manufactured cannabinoid or intermediate hemp
6309 derivative the producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product
6310 manufacturer or food and beverage manufacturer purchased from a
6311 manufacturer; and

6312 (B) Invoices and transport documents that evidence the quantity of
6313 cannabigerol, cannabiniol, approved manufactured cannabinoid or
6314 intermediate hemp derivative purchased from the manufacturer and the
6315 date the producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer or
6316 food and beverage manufacturer received such cannabigerol,
6317 cannabiniol, approved manufactured cannabinoid or intermediate hemp
6318 derivative.

6319 (d) (1) On and after December 1, 2026, an infused beverage
6320 manufacturer may purchase intermediate hemp derivative from a
6321 manufacturer, provided such intermediate hemp derivative was

6322 manufactured in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this
6323 section.

6324 (2) An infused beverage manufacturer shall:

6325 (A) Obtain from an independent testing laboratory, and retain, a
6326 certificate of analysis for the intermediate hemp derivative the infused
6327 beverage manufacturer purchased from a manufacturer in accordance
6328 with the laboratory testing standards established in the regulations
6329 adopted pursuant to section 21a-421j of the general statutes, as amended
6330 by this act; and

6331 (B) Invoices and transport documents that evidence the quantity of
6332 intermediate hemp derivative purchased from the manufacturer and the
6333 date the infused beverage manufacturer received such intermediate
6334 hemp derivative.

6335 (e) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt
6336 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
6337 general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section.
6338 Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive,
6339 of the general statutes, the commissioner shall, prior to adopting such
6340 regulations and in order to effectuate the provisions of this section, issue
6341 policies and procedures to implement the provisions of this section that
6342 shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all
6343 policies and procedures on the Department of Consumer Protection's
6344 Internet web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the
6345 Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least
6346 fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any
6347 such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of
6348 either the adoption of the policy or procedure as a final regulation under
6349 section 4-172 of the general statutes or July 1, 2028, if such regulations
6350 have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee
6351 for consideration under section 4-170 of the general statutes. Such
6352 policies, procedures and regulations shall include, but need not be
6353 limited to, provisions concerning product tracking information, security

6354 and transportation.

6355 Sec. 101. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) No provision of chapter 424 of
6356 the general statutes shall be construed to authorize the interstate
6357 transportation of any product in violation of federal law, including, but
6358 not limited to, the United States Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, 7
6359 USC 1639o et seq., as amended from time to time.

6360 Sec. 102. Subsection (r) of section 22-61m of the 2026 supplement to
6361 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
6362 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

6363 (r) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt
6364 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
6365 implement the provisions of this section including, but not limited to,
6366 establishing sampling and testing procedures to ensure compliance
6367 with this section, prescribing storage and disposal procedures for hemp,
6368 [marijuana] cannabis and manufacturer hemp products that fail to pass
6369 Department of Consumer Protection prescribed independent testing
6370 laboratory testing standards and establishing advertising and labeling
6371 requirements for manufacturer hemp products.

6372 Sec. 103. Section 22-61n of the general statutes is repealed and the
6373 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

6374 (a) As used in this section:

6375 (1) "Cannabis product" has the same meaning as provided in section
6376 21a-420, as amended by this act;

6377 ~~[(1)]~~ (2) "Cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-
6378 420, as amended by this act;

6379 (3) "Food and beverage manufacturer" has the same meaning as
6380 provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

6381 ~~[(2)]~~ (4) "Hemp" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-61l,
6382 as amended by this act;

6383 [(3)] (5) "Hemp products" has the same meaning as provided in
6384 section 22-611, as amended by this act;

6385 (6) "Infused beverage" has the same meaning as provided in section
6386 21a-425, as amended by this act;

6387 (7) "Manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-
6388 611, as amended by this act;

6389 [(4)] (8) "Micro-cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in
6390 section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

6391 [(5)] (9) "Producer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-
6392 420, as amended by this act; and

6393 [(6)] (10) "Product manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided
6394 in section 21a-420, as amended by this act.

6395 (b) [Any] A producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, [and] food and
6396 beverage manufacturer or product manufacturer may manufacture,
6397 market, cultivate or store hemp and hemp products in accordance with
6398 the provisions of this chapter and any regulations adopted pursuant to
6399 [said] this chapter. A producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, [and] food
6400 and beverage manufacturer or product manufacturer that obtains hemp
6401 and hemp products shall only obtain such hemp and hemp products
6402 from a person authorized under the laws of this state or another state,
6403 territory or possession of the United States or another sovereign entity
6404 to possess and sell such hemp and hemp products.

6405 (c) Hemp or hemp products purchased by a producer, cultivator,
6406 micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer or product
6407 manufacturer [or food and beverage manufacturer] from a third party
6408 shall be tracked as a separate batch throughout the manufacturing
6409 process in order to document the disposition of such hemp or hemp
6410 products. Once hemp or hemp products are received by a producer,
6411 cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer or
6412 product manufacturer [or food and beverage manufacturer] to

6413 manufacture a cannabis product, such hemp or hemp products shall be
6414 deemed cannabis and shall comply with the requirements for cannabis
6415 contained in the applicable provisions of the general statutes and any
6416 regulations adopted pursuant to such provisions. A producer,
6417 cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer or
6418 product manufacturer [and food and beverage manufacturer] shall
6419 retain a copy of the certificate of analysis for purchased hemp or hemp
6420 products and invoice and transport documents that evidence the
6421 quantity purchased and date received.

6422 Sec. 104. Section 30-1 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
6423 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
6424 *October 1, 2026*):

6425 For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context indicates a
6426 different meaning:

6427 (1) "Airline" means any (A) United States airline carrier holding a
6428 certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Civil
6429 Aeronautics Board under Section 401 of the Federal Aviation Act of
6430 1958, as amended from time to time, or (B) foreign flag carrier holding a
6431 permit under Section 402 of said act.

6432 (2) "Alcohol" (A) means the product of distillation of any fermented
6433 liquid that is rectified at least once and regardless of such liquid's origin,
6434 and (B) includes synthetic ethyl alcohol which is considered nonpotable.

6435 (3) "Alcoholic beverage" and "alcoholic liquor" include the four
6436 varieties of liquor defined in subdivisions (2), (5), [(21)] (22) and [(22)]
6437 (23) of this section (alcohol, beer, spirits and wine) and every liquid or
6438 solid, patented or unpatented, containing alcohol, beer, spirits or wine
6439 and at least one-half of one per cent alcohol by volume, and capable of
6440 being consumed by a human being as a beverage. Any liquid or solid
6441 containing more than one of the four varieties so defined belongs to the
6442 variety which has the highest percentage of alcohol according to the
6443 following order: Alcohol, spirits, wine and beer, except as provided in
6444 subdivision [(22)] (23) of this section.

6445 (4) "Backer" means, except in cases where the permittee is the
6446 proprietor, the proprietor of any business or club, incorporated or
6447 unincorporated, that is engaged in manufacturing or selling alcoholic
6448 liquor and in which business a permittee is associated, whether as an
6449 agent, employee or part owner.

6450 (5) "Beer" means any beverage obtained by the alcoholic fermentation
6451 of a decoction or infusion of barley, hops and malt in drinking water.

6452 (6) "Boat" means any vessel that is (A) operating on any waterway of
6453 this state, and (B) engaged in transporting passengers for hire to or from
6454 any port of this state.

6455 (7) "Business entity" means any incorporated or unincorporated
6456 association, corporation, firm, joint stock company, limited liability
6457 company, limited liability partnership, partnership, trust or other legal
6458 entity.

6459 (8) "Case price" means the price of a container made of cardboard,
6460 wood or any other material and containing units of the same class and
6461 size of alcoholic liquor. A case of alcoholic liquor, other than beer,
6462 cocktails, cordials, prepared mixed drinks and wines, shall be in the
6463 quantity and number, or fewer, with the permission of the
6464 Commissioner of Consumer Protection, of bottles or units as follows:
6465 (A) Six three thousand seven hundred fifty milliliter bottles, (B) six three
6466 thousand milliliter bottles, (C) six two thousand milliliter bottles, (D) six
6467 one thousand eight hundred milliliter bottles, (E) six one thousand
6468 seven hundred fifty milliliter bottles, (F) six one thousand five hundred
6469 milliliter bottles, (G) six nine hundred forty-five milliliter bottles, (H)
6470 twelve one liter bottles, (I) twelve nine hundred milliliter bottles, (J)
6471 twelve seven hundred fifty milliliter bottles, (K) twelve seven hundred
6472 twenty milliliter bottles, (L) twelve seven hundred ten milliliter bottles,
6473 (M) twelve seven hundred milliliter bottles, (N) twelve five hundred
6474 seventy milliliter bottles, (O) twelve five hundred milliliter bottles, (P)
6475 twelve four hundred seventy-five milliliter bottles, (Q) twenty-four
6476 three hundred seventy-five milliliter bottles, (R) twenty-four three

6477 hundred fifty-five milliliter bottles, (S) twenty-four three hundred fifty
6478 milliliter bottles, (T) twenty-four three hundred thirty-one milliliter
6479 bottles, (U) forty-eight two hundred fifty milliliter bottles, (V) forty-
6480 eight two hundred milliliter bottles, (W) forty-eight one hundred eighty-
6481 seven milliliter bottles, (X) sixty one hundred milliliter bottles, or (Y) one
6482 hundred twenty fifty milliliter bottles, except a case of fifty milliliter
6483 bottles may be in a quantity and number as originally configured,
6484 packaged and sold by the manufacturer or out-of-state shipper prior to
6485 shipment if the number of such bottles in such case is not greater than
6486 two hundred. The commissioner shall not authorize fewer quantities or
6487 numbers of bottles or units as specified in this subdivision for any one
6488 person or entity more than eight times in any calendar year. For the
6489 purposes of this subdivision, "class" has the same meaning as provided
6490 in 27 CFR 4.21 for wine, 27 CFR 5.22 for spirits and 27 CFR 7.24 for beer.

6491 (9) "Club" has the same meaning as provided in section 30-22aa.

6492 (10) "Coliseum" has the same meaning as provided in section 30-33a.

6493 (11) "Commission" means the Liquor Control Commission
6494 established under this chapter.

6495 (12) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection.

6496 (13) "Dining room" means any room or rooms (A) located in premises
6497 operating under (i) a hotel permit issued under section 30-21, (ii) a
6498 restaurant permit issued under subsection (a) of section 30-22, (iii) a
6499 restaurant permit for wine and beer issued under subsection (b) of
6500 section 30-22, (iv) a cafe permit issued under section 30-22a, or (v) a cafe
6501 permit for wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-22g, and (B)
6502 where meals are customarily served to any member of the public who
6503 has means of payment and a proper demeanor.

6504 (14) "Infused beverage" has the same meaning as provided in section
6505 21a-425, as amended by this act.

6506 [(14)] (15) "Mead" means fermented honey (A) with or without

6507 additions or adjunct ingredients, and (B) regardless of (i) alcohol
6508 content, (ii) process, and (iii) whether such honey is carbonated,
6509 sparkling or still.

6510 [(15)] (16) "Minor" means any person who is younger than twenty-
6511 one years of age.

6512 [(16)] (17) "Noncommercial entity" means an academic institution,
6513 charitable organization, government organization, nonprofit
6514 organization or similar entity that is not primarily dedicated to
6515 obtaining a commercial advantage or monetary compensation.

6516 [(17)] (18) "Nonprofit club" has the same meaning as provided in
6517 section 30-22aa.

6518 [(18)] (19) (A) "Person" means an individual, including, but not
6519 limited to, a partner.

6520 (B) "Person" does not include any business entity.

6521 [(19)] (20) (A) "Proprietor" includes all owners of a business or club,
6522 incorporated or unincorporated, that is engaged in manufacturing or
6523 selling alcoholic liquor, whether such owners are persons, fiduciaries,
6524 business entities, stockholders of corporations or otherwise.

6525 (B) "Proprietor" does not include any person who, or business entity
6526 that, is merely a creditor, whether as a bond holder, franchisor, landlord
6527 or note holder, of a business or club, incorporated or unincorporated,
6528 that is engaged in manufacturing or selling alcoholic liquor.

6529 [(20)] (21) "Restaurant" has the same meaning as provided in section
6530 30-22.

6531 [(21)] (22) "Spirits" means any beverage that contains alcohol
6532 obtained by distillation mixed with drinkable water and other
6533 substances in solution, including brandy, rum, whiskey and gin.

6534 [(22)] (23) "Wine" means any alcoholic beverage obtained by

6535 fermenting the natural sugar content of fruits, such as apples, grapes or
6536 other agricultural products, containing such sugar, including fortified
6537 wines such as port, sherry and champagne.

6538 Sec. 105. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 30-17d of the
6539 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
6540 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

6541 (a) For the purposes of this section, [(1) "Container"] "container" has
6542 the same meaning as provided in section 21a-425, as amended by this
6543 act. [; and

6544 (2) "Infused beverage" has the same meaning as provided in section
6545 21a-425.]

6546 (b) A fee of one dollar shall be assessed by the holder of a wholesaler
6547 permit or a wholesaler permit for beer issued under section 30-17 on
6548 each infused beverage container sold to the holder of a package store
6549 permit issued under subsection (b) of section 30-20, as amended by this
6550 act. Such fee shall not be subject to any sales tax or treated as income
6551 pursuant to any provision of the general statutes.

6552 (c) On the second days of January [2, 2025, and every six months
6553 thereafter] and July, annually, each holder of a wholesaler permit or a
6554 wholesaler permit for beer issued under section 30-17 shall remit
6555 payment to the department for each infused beverage container sold
6556 during the preceding six-month period. The funds received by the
6557 department from infused beverage sales shall be deposited in the
6558 consumer protection enforcement account established in section 21a-8a
6559 for the purposes of (1) protecting public health and safety, (2) educating
6560 consumers and licensees, and (3) ensuring compliance with cannabis
6561 and liquor control laws.

6562 Sec. 106. Subsection (b) of section 30-20 of the 2026 supplement to the
6563 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
6564 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

6565 (b) (1) A package store permit shall allow the retail sale of alcoholic
6566 liquor in sealed bottles or containers not to be consumed on the permit
6567 premises. The holder of a package store permit may, in accordance with
6568 regulations adopted by the Department of Consumer Protection
6569 pursuant to the provisions of chapter 54, (A) offer free samples of
6570 alcoholic liquor for tasting on the permit premises, (B) conduct fee-
6571 based wine or spirits education and tasting classes and demonstrations,
6572 and (C) conduct tastings or demonstrations provided by a permittee or
6573 backer of the package store for a nominal charge to charitable nonprofit
6574 organizations. Any offering, tasting, wine or spirits education and
6575 tasting class or demonstration held on permit premises shall be
6576 conducted only during the hours the package store may sell alcoholic
6577 liquor under section 30-91. No tasting of wine on the permit premises
6578 shall be offered from more than ten uncorked bottles at any one time.
6579 No holder, backer or permittee shall offer or provide to any customer (i)
6580 more than one-half ounce of any single spirit for sampling or tasting per
6581 day, or (ii) a total of more than two ounces of spirits for sampling or
6582 tasting per day. No tasting shall be provided below cost.

6583 (2) No store operating under a package store permit shall sell any
6584 commodity other than alcoholic liquor except, notwithstanding any
6585 other provision of law, such store may sell (A) cigarettes and cigars, (B)
6586 publications, (C) bar utensils, including, but not limited to, corkscrews,
6587 beverage strainers, stirrers or other similar items used to consume, or
6588 related to the consumption of, alcoholic liquor, (D) gift packages of
6589 alcoholic liquor shipped into the state by a manufacturer or out-of-state
6590 shipper, which gift packages may include nonalcoholic items, other than
6591 food or tobacco products, if the dollar value of the nonalcoholic items in
6592 such gift package does not exceed the dollar value of the alcoholic items
6593 in such gift package, (E) complementary fresh fruits used in the
6594 preparation of mixed alcoholic beverages, (F) cheese, crackers or both,
6595 (G) olives, (H) nonalcoholic beverages, (I) concentrates used in the
6596 preparation of mixed alcoholic beverages, (J) beer and wine-making kits
6597 and products related to such kits, (K) ice in any form, (L) articles of
6598 clothing imprinted with advertising related to the alcoholic liquor

6599 industry, (M) gift baskets or other containers of alcoholic liquor, (N)
6600 multiple packages of alcoholic liquors, provided in all such cases the
6601 minimum retail selling price for such alcoholic liquor shall apply, (O)
6602 lottery tickets authorized by the Department of Consumer Protection, if
6603 licensed as an agent to sell such tickets by the department, (P) devices
6604 and related accessories designed primarily for accessing and extracting
6605 a beverage containing alcohol from prepackaged containers, including,
6606 but not limited to, pods, pouches or similar containers, but excluding
6607 devices, including, but not limited to, household blenders, that are not
6608 designed primarily for such purposes, (Q) alcohol-infused confections
6609 containing not more than one-half of one per cent of alcohol by weight
6610 and which the commissioner has approved for sale under section 21a-
6611 101, (R) gift baskets containing only containers of alcoholic liquor and
6612 commodities authorized for sale under subparagraphs (A) to (Q),
6613 inclusive, of this subdivision, and (S) infused beverages, [as defined in
6614 section 21a-425,] provided (i) the package store permittee (I) paid to the
6615 department the annual fee for an infused beverage endorsement
6616 pursuant to this subdivision, and (II) purchased such infused beverages
6617 from the holder of a wholesaler permit or a wholesaler permit for beer
6618 issued under section 30-17 or an infused beverage wholesaler licensed
6619 under section 21a-425e, as amended by this act, and (ii) such sales are
6620 made in accordance with the provisions of section 21a-425b, as amended
6621 by this act.], and (T) legacy infused beverages, as defined in section 21a-
6622 425d, provided all such sales shall be made (i) during the period
6623 beginning on July 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2024, and (ii) in
6624 accordance with (I) a waiver issued pursuant to section 21a-425d, and
6625 (II) the requirements set forth in section 21a-425d.] A package store
6626 permit shall also allow the taking and transmitting of orders for delivery
6627 of such merchandise in other states. Notwithstanding any other
6628 provision of law, a package store permit shall allow the participation in
6629 any lottery ticket promotion or giveaway sponsored by the department.
6630 The annual fee for a package store permit shall be five hundred thirty-
6631 five dollars. The annual fee for an infused beverage endorsement to a
6632 package store permit shall be five hundred dollars, and shall be
6633 deposited by the department in the consumer protection enforcement

6634 account established in section 21a-8a.

6635 Sec. 107. Subsection (a) of section 30-47 of the 2026 supplement to the
6636 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
6637 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

6638 (a) The Department of Consumer Protection may, in the department's
6639 discretion, suspend, revoke or refuse to grant or renew a permit for the
6640 sale of alcoholic liquor, or impose a fine of not greater than one thousand
6641 dollars per violation, if the department has reasonable cause to believe:
6642 (1) That the applicant or permittee appears to be financially
6643 irresponsible or neglects to provide for the applicant's or permittee's
6644 family, or neglects or is unable to pay the applicant's or permittee's just
6645 debts; (2) that the applicant or permittee has been provided with funds
6646 by any wholesaler or manufacturer or has any forbidden connection
6647 with any other class of permittee as provided in this chapter; (3) that the
6648 applicant or permittee is in the habit of using alcoholic beverages to
6649 excess; (4) that the applicant or permittee has wilfully made any false
6650 statement to the department in a material matter; (5) that the applicant
6651 or permittee has been convicted of violating any of the liquor laws of
6652 this or any other state or the liquor laws of the United States or has been
6653 convicted of a felony as such term is defined in section 53a-25, provided
6654 any action taken is based upon (A) the nature of the conviction and its
6655 relationship to the applicant or permittee's ability to safely or
6656 competently perform the duties associated with such permit, (B)
6657 information pertaining to the degree of rehabilitation of the applicant or
6658 permittee, and (C) the time elapsed since the conviction or release, or
6659 has such a criminal record that the department reasonably believes the
6660 applicant or permittee is not a suitable person to hold a permit, provided
6661 no refusal shall be rendered under this subdivision except in accordance
6662 with the provisions of sections 46a-80 and 46a-81; (6) that the applicant
6663 or permittee has not been delegated full authority and control of the
6664 permit premises and of the conduct of all business on such premises; or
6665 (7) that the applicant, applicant's backer, backer or permittee has
6666 violated (A) any provision of this chapter or any regulation adopted
6667 under this chapter, or (B) any provision of sections 21a-425 to [21a-425d]

6668 21a-425f, inclusive, as amended by this act, or any regulation adopted
6669 under subsection [(k)] (l) of section 21a-425a, as amended by this act.
6670 Any applicant, applicant's backer or backer shall be subject to the same
6671 disqualifications as provided in this chapter, or any regulation adopted
6672 under this chapter, for permittees.

6673 Sec. 108. Subsection (e) of section 30-63 of the general statutes is
6674 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
6675 *1, 2026*):

6676 (e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the sale or
6677 distribution of infused beverages, [or legacy infused beverages,] as
6678 [such terms are] defined in section 21a-425, as amended by this act.

6679 Sec. 109. Subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section 31-40q of the
6680 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
6681 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

6682 (6) "Cannabis" [means marijuana, as defined] has the same meaning
6683 as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act;

6684 Sec. 110. Section 38a-1052 of the general statutes is repealed and the
6685 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

6686 (a) For the purposes of this section:

6687 (1) "Cannabis" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240,
6688 as amended by this act;

6689 [(1)] (2) "Caregiver" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-
6690 408, as amended by this act;

6691 [(2)] (2) "Marijuana" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-
6692 240;

6693 (3) "Palliative use" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-
6694 408, as amended by this act; and

6695 (4) "Qualifying patient" has the same meaning as provided in section
6696 21a-408, as amended by this act.

6697 (b) There is established, within available appropriations, an Office of
6698 the Cannabis Ombudsman, which shall be within the Office of the
6699 Healthcare Advocate for administrative purposes only. The Office of the
6700 Cannabis Ombudsman shall be under the direction of a Cannabis
6701 Ombudsman. The Healthcare Advocate shall appoint an individual
6702 who is familiar with the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis and the
6703 medical cannabis system to serve as the Cannabis Ombudsman.

6704 (c) The Office of the Cannabis Ombudsman shall:

6705 (1) Represent the interests of qualifying patients and caregivers;

6706 (2) Identify, investigate and resolve complaints made by, or on behalf
6707 of, qualifying patients and caregivers;

6708 (3) Monitor the palliative use of [marijuana] cannabis as authorized
6709 under chapter 420f;

6710 (4) Report action, inaction or decisions that may adversely affect the
6711 health, safety, welfare or rights of qualifying patients;

6712 (5) Analyze, comment on and monitor the development and
6713 implementation of federal, state and local laws, regulations and other
6714 government policies and actions concerning the health, safety, welfare
6715 and rights of qualifying patients and caregivers;

6716 (6) Recommend any changes to the laws, regulations, policies and
6717 actions described in subdivision (5) of this subsection that the office
6718 deems appropriate to, among other things, improve the palliative
6719 [marijuana] cannabis market in this state; and

6720 (7) Facilitate public comment on the laws, regulations, policies and
6721 actions described in subdivision (5) of this subsection.

6722 Sec. 111. Section 53-247a of the general statutes is repealed and the

6723 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

6724 Any person who provides cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420]
6725 21a-240, as amended by this act, to a domesticated animal, shall be guilty
6726 of a class C misdemeanor.

6727 Sec. 112. Subsection (a) of section 53a-213a of the 2026 supplement to
6728 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
6729 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

6730 (a) A person is guilty of smoking, otherwise inhaling or ingesting
6731 cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act,
6732 while operating a motor vehicle when he or she smokes, otherwise
6733 inhales or ingests cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as
6734 amended by this act, while operating a motor vehicle upon a public
6735 highway of this state or upon any road of any specially chartered
6736 municipal association or of any district organized under the provisions
6737 of chapter 105, a purpose of which is the construction and maintenance
6738 of roads and sidewalks, or in any parking area for ten cars or more, or
6739 upon any private road on which a speed limit has been established in
6740 accordance with the provisions of section 14-218a or upon any school
6741 property. No person shall be convicted of smoking or otherwise
6742 inhaling or ingesting cannabis while operating a motor vehicle and
6743 possessing or having under such person's control a controlled substance
6744 upon the same transaction. A person may be charged and prosecuted
6745 for either or each such offense, a violation of operating a motor vehicle
6746 while under the influence of any drug and any other applicable offense
6747 upon the same information.

6748 Sec. 113. Subsection (a) of section 53a-213b of the 2026 supplement to
6749 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
6750 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

6751 (a) A person is guilty of smoking or otherwise inhaling or ingesting
6752 cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act,
6753 in a motor vehicle when he or she smokes or otherwise inhales or ingests
6754 cannabis in a motor vehicle that is being operated by another person

6755 upon a public highway of this state or upon any road of any specially
 6756 chartered municipal association or of any district organized under the
 6757 provisions of chapter 105, a purpose of which is the construction and
 6758 maintenance of roads and sidewalks, or in any parking area for ten cars
 6759 or more, or upon any private road on which a speed limit has been
 6760 established in accordance with the provisions of section 14-218a or upon
 6761 any school property. No person shall be convicted of smoking or
 6762 otherwise inhaling or ingesting cannabis as a passenger in a motor
 6763 vehicle and possessing or having under such person's control a
 6764 controlled substance upon the same transaction, but such person may
 6765 be charged and prosecuted for both offenses upon the same information.

6766 Sec. 114. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2027, the
 6767 Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall submit a report, in
 6768 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
 6769 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
 6770 cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection recommending
 6771 legislation to establish a micro-retailer license in the state's adult use
 6772 cannabis market.

6773 Sec. 115. Sections 21a-425c and 21a-425d of the general statutes are
 6774 repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2026*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	1-1(q)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2026	7-148(c)(7)(H)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2026	12-330ll(a)(1)
Sec. 4	October 1, 2026	12-412(120)(B)
Sec. 5	October 1, 2026	12-650
Sec. 6	October 1, 2026	12-704d(a)(13)
Sec. 7	October 1, 2026	14-36(d)(1)
Sec. 8	October 1, 2026	14-227a(e)(2)
Sec. 9	October 1, 2026	15-140r(d)(2)
Sec. 10	October 1, 2026	19a-342(a)(3)
Sec. 11	October 1, 2026	19a-342a(a)(6)
Sec. 12	October 1, 2026	21a-3b(a)(1)

Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-8c
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-12g
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-106(d)
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-240(20) to (29)
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-243(e)
Sec. 18	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-246(a)
Sec. 19	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-253
Sec. 20	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-277(b)(3)
Sec. 21	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-279(a)(1)
Sec. 22	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-279a(j)(1)
Sec. 23	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408
Sec. 24	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408a
Sec. 25	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408b
Sec. 26	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408c(a) and (b)
Sec. 27	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408d(a) to (c)
Sec. 28	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408e
Sec. 29	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408f
Sec. 30	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408g
Sec. 31	<i>from passage</i>	21a-408h
Sec. 32	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408h
Sec. 33	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408i(b)
Sec. 34	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408j
Sec. 35	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408k
Sec. 36	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408l
Sec. 37	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408m
Sec. 38	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408o
Sec. 39	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408p
Sec. 40	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408r(d)
Sec. 41	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408s(a) to (c)
Sec. 42	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408u
Sec. 43	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408v(b) and (c)
Sec. 44	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-408w
Sec. 45	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-409(b) and (c)
Sec. 46	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-410(a) and (b)
Sec. 47	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-420
Sec. 48	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 49	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 50	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 51	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 52	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section

Sec. 53	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-420c(a) to (e)
Sec. 54	<i>from passage</i>	21a-420d
Sec. 55	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-420d(e) to (s)
Sec. 56	<i>from passage</i>	21a-420g(a)
Sec. 57	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-420g(g)
Sec. 58	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	21a-420h
Sec. 59	<i>from passage</i>	21a-420j(d)
Sec. 60	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-420l(b)
Sec. 61	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-420m(b)
Sec. 62	<i>from passage</i>	21a-420m(e)
Sec. 63	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-420n(d)
Sec. 64	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-420p(f) and (g)
Sec. 65	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	21a-420q
Sec. 66	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-420r
Sec. 67	<i>from passage</i>	21a-420s(c) to (g)
Sec. 68	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-420s
Sec. 69	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-420t(a) to (d)
Sec. 70	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-420u(b)
Sec. 71	<i>from passage</i>	21a-420u(e)
Sec. 72	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-420z(c) and (d)
Sec. 73	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	21a-420z(e)
Sec. 74	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-420aa(b)(3)(A)
Sec. 75	<i>from passage</i>	21a-420bb(b) to (g)
Sec. 76	<i>from passage</i>	21a-420cc(a) and (b)
Sec. 77	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-421d(f)
Sec. 78	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	21a-421j(b)
Sec. 79	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-421j
Sec. 80	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	21a-421k(b)
Sec. 81	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-421n(a) and (b)
Sec. 82	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-421o(e)
Sec. 83	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-421q
Sec. 84	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-421r
Sec. 85	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-421s
Sec. 86	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-421aa(c)
Sec. 87	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-421bb(b)
Sec. 88	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-421ddd
Sec. 89	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-422g(a)
Sec. 90	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-422k
Sec. 91	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-422l(a)
Sec. 92	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-422m

Sec. 93	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-425
Sec. 94	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-425a
Sec. 95	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-425b
Sec. 96	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-425e(f)
Sec. 97	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-425f(a) and (b)
Sec. 98	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-426(a)(7)
Sec. 99	<i>from passage</i>	22-61l
Sec. 100	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 101	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 102	<i>from passage</i>	22-61m(r)
Sec. 103	<i>from passage</i>	22-61n
Sec. 104	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	30-1
Sec. 105	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	30-17d(a) to (c)
Sec. 106	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	30-20(b)
Sec. 107	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	30-47(a)
Sec. 108	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	30-63(e)
Sec. 109	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	31-40q(a)(6)
Sec. 110	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	38a-1052
Sec. 111	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53-247a
Sec. 112	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-213a(a)
Sec. 113	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-213b(a)
Sec. 114	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 115	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	Repealer section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Various	Various - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: Various=Various

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill makes various changes to the cannabis statutes resulting in the potential revenue gain described below.

Section 54 imposes a fee of \$8,000 for a person acquiring ownership or control of an equity joint venture resulting in a potential revenue gain to the Social Equity and Innovation Account to the extent these transactions occur.

This section also allows the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to issue fines of up to \$10 million for a violation of this section, resulting in a potential revenue gain to the General Fund to the extent violations occur.

Sections 66 & 68 results in a potential increase in state and municipal sales tax revenue by expanding the sale of certain medical use cannabis

products to retail consumers.¹

Sections 93 - 94 also results in a potential increase in state and municipal sales tax revenue by increasing the allowable THC levels in an infused beverage to be sold or offered for sale within the state.

Section 94 requires infused beverage manufacturers to assess a \$1 fee for each container sold at retail resulting in a potential revenue gain to the consumer protection enforcement account to the extent these sales occur.

The bill also makes various changes to cannabis statutes that do not result in a fiscal impact to the state.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact resulting in the impact described above.

House "D" eliminates the reduced restrictions on cannabis packaging and labeling which removes the cost to the Department of Consumer Protection and the State Comptroller.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of violations, the number of infused beverages sold, and inflation.

¹Under current law, there is a 3% municipal sales tax on retail cannabis.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5350 (as amended by House "A" and "D")*****AN ACT CONCERNING CANNABIS, HEMP AND INFUSED BEVERAGE REGULATION.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

[SUMMARY](#)[§§ 1-30, 32-47, 55, 60, 64, 66, 68-69, 70, 72, 79, 87-89, 91-93, 99, 102 & 109-113 — CANNABIS DEFINED](#)

Renames “marijuana” as “cannabis” throughout the statutes; specifies extracted resin from the plant is considered cannabis, exempts certain cannabinoids derived from hemp from being considered cannabis

[§ 13 — STATEWIDE CANNABIS, HEMP, AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ENFORCEMENT BOARD](#)

Renames the Statewide Cannabis and Hemp Enforcement Policy Board, reduces its membership, and expands the purposes of its meetings to include controlled substances issues; exempts its quarterly meeting-related records from disclosure under FOIA

[§§ 23-25, 27, 29, 32, 34, 39, 47, 53, 63-64, 66, 68-69, 77, 79, 81-84, 86 — QUALIFYING OUT-OF-STATE PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS](#)

Generally allows qualifying out-of-state patients and their qualified caregivers to purchase and possess, among other things, medical cannabis in the same manner and under the same conditions as Connecticut qualifying patients and their caregivers

[§§ 31 & 67 — DISPENSARIES AND HYBRID RETAILERS](#)

Eliminates the requirement that cannabis or medical cannabis be dispensed by a licensed pharmacist; allows automated systems to record and upload data to the state’s electronic prescription drug monitoring program; specifically allows pharmacists, dispensary technicians, and other registered employees to perform most authorized activities; eliminates the minimum on-site presence

requirement for pharmacists, though in-person consultations must be scheduled upon request

§§ 32 & 87 – “DISPENSARY” IN ADVERTISING

Allows retailers to use the term “dispensary” in their advertising

§§ 44 & 52 – DEADLINES FOR SAMPLES THAT FAILED LABORATORY TESTING

Generally sets a 60-day deadline to dispose of medical marijuana and cannabis samples that fail testing

§§ 47, 66 & 68— PERSONAL DATA RETENTION

Prohibits retailers and hybrid retailers from retaining any personal data they obtain for age verification purposes for more than 24 hours without written consent

§ 48 — CANNABIS REGULATORY WORKING GROUP

Establishes a cannabis regulatory working group to (1) study and recommend new or amended regulations or policies and procedures concerning cannabis and (2) propose legislation concerning cannabis

§ 49 — 30 DAY CREDIT LIMIT

Generally prohibits retailers, hybrid retailers, or dispensary facilities from borrowing money or being extended credit for more than 30 days from a cultivator, micro-cultivator, or producer

§ 50 — MINIMUM EMPLOYEES REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY

Allows cannabis establishments to deliver or transport cannabis with only one employee when transporting to another cannabis establishment, testing laboratory, or research program if the vehicle is equipped with certain devices and containers

§ 51 — FENCE HEIGHT

Prohibits requiring a producer, cultivator, or micro-cultivator that cultivates cannabis outdoors to maintain a perimeter fence that is more than eight feet tall

§ 53 — IMMEDIATE THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Broadens the circumstances under which a municipality may prohibit a business from operating because it poses an “immediate threat to public health and safety”; allows law enforcement officers to summarily close a business and seal the premises upon court order

§§ 54, 56, 59, 62, 71 & 74-76 — CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL

Allows a change in ownership or control in an equity joint venture after six years of final licensure; allows the social equity applicant to request the Social Equity Council perform a nonfinancial review of the change; sets requirements for the council when conducting the review; requires the person acquiring ownership or control to pay certain fees and outstanding balances before the change is effective

§ 54 — SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL

Allows the Social Equity Council to conduct investigations related to its purposes and duties; consolidates its required reporting by eliminating its monthly reporting requirement and instead adds the BPRC to the quarterly report's recipients

§ 57 — ADDING BACKERS OR PROVISIONAL LICENSEES

Allows an applicant or provisional licensee that is a social equity applicant to apply to the DCP commissioner for a one-time replacement of an original backer, if the backer is not a social equity applicant

§§ 58, 65, 73, 78 & 80 — POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SUBMISSION

Extends the maximum effective period of cannabis policies and procedures until July 1, 2028; requires the policies and procedures that DCP and the Social Equity Council submit for posting on the eRegulations system to also be submitted to the General Law Committee

§ 64 — MICRO-CULTIVATORS RETAIL FACILITIES

Allows micro-cultivators with a hybrid retailer or retailer endorsement to locate the facility within the same disproportionately impacted area as the premises; limits the sales types micro-cultivators with a hybrid retailer endorsement may make

§§ 66 & 68 — MEDICAL CANNABIS PRODUCT SALES TO CONSUMERS

Allows for the sale of certain products that are currently only available to qualifying patients to other consumers; requires certain cannabis establishments to reserve these products for exclusive sale for at least 14 days after release

§ 79 — THC LEVELS

Lifts the cap on THC by dry-weight-bases for cannabis flower, other plant material, and concentrates, and prohibits DCP from limiting their dosage, potency, or concentration; allows edibles to have a variance reflecting testing method uncertainty of up to +/- 10% of

existing law's five mgs limit; eliminates DCP's ability to adjust certain maximum THC percentages for public health reasons or when there is a shortage

§ 79 — IONIZING RADIATION REMEDIATION

Specifies the permitted remediation practices must include remediating cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material by ionizing radiation

§§ 85, 93-98, 104-108 & 115 — INFUSED BEVERAGES

Increases the allowable THC levels, from three to five mgs, for infused beverages sold in package stores and from three mgs to 10 mgs, for ones sold in a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer, or retailer; allows for a testing method uncertainty of +/- 10% in the reported THC value; allows infused beverage manufacturers to sell infused-beverages for off-premises consumption and allows them to sell certain other beverages for on-premises consumption; allows infused beverages to be tested by out-of-state laboratories; modifies the container labeling requirements to additionally follow ASTM standards; eliminates obsolete references to legacy infused beverages

§ 90 — DISCLOSING MATERIAL CHANGES TO THE SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL

Requires parties to a transaction with a social equity applicant that results in a material change to a cannabis establishment to submit certain information to the Social Equity Council, which the council must post on its website

§§ 94 & 99-101 — HEMP MANUFACTURERS MAKING CANNABINOIDS AND INTERMEDIATE HEMP DERIVATIVES

Beginning December 1, 2026, allows hemp manufacturers to manufacture certain cannabinoids and intermediate hemp derivatives (extracts with a total THC concentration of more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis); requires manufacturers to exclusively sell these cannabinoids to certain cannabis establishments and the derivatives to the same establishments and infused beverage manufacturers

§ 103 — FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANUFACTURER

Allows food and beverage manufacturers to manufacture, market, cultivate, and store hemp and hemp products under the same procedures and requirements as for certain other cannabis establishments

§ 114 — DCP RECOMMENDATIONS ON MICRO-RETAILER LICENSE

Requires DCP to submit recommended legislation to establish a micro-retailer license for adult-use cannabis

BACKGROUND**SUMMARY**

This bill makes various unrelated changes to laws on cannabis, hemp, and THC-infused beverages. It also makes numerous minor, technical, and conforming changes, as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except when otherwise noted below.

*House Amendment “A” makes numerous changes to the underlying bill and adds the provisions on the statewide cannabis, hemp, and controlled substances enforcement board; out-of-state caregivers; dispensary facilities; and micro-cultivator retail facilities.

*House Amendment “D” removes the provision on packaging and labeling.

§§ 1-30, 32-47, 55, 60, 64, 66, 68-69, 70, 72, 79, 87-89, 91-93, 99, 102 & 109-113 — CANNABIS DEFINED

Renames “marijuana” as “cannabis” throughout the statutes; specifies extracted resin from the plant is considered cannabis, exempts certain cannabinoids derived from hemp from being considered cannabis

Renaming

The bill renames “marijuana” as “cannabis” in the general statutes. Currently, marijuana and cannabis have the same legal definition under state law. The bill also makes changes to the definition of cannabis.

Changes to Definition (§ 16)

Broadly, under current law, “cannabis” is all parts of a plant or species of the genus cannabis, whether growing or not, including its resin extracted from any part of the plant, among other parts. The bill specifies this includes extracted resin from the (1) plant’s mature stalks,

(2) fiber produced from the mature stalks, or (3) oil or cake made from the seeds. As under existing law, “cannabis” does not include the plant’s mature stalks, the fiber produced from the mature stalks, or the oil or cake from the seeds. (But as under existing law, every high-THC hemp product is cannabis.)

Under current law, cannabis is defined to generally include cannabimon, cannabimol (CBN), and cannabidiol (CBD), as well as chemical compounds that are controlled substances and which are similar to them in physiological effect (except CBD derived from hemp, if it is not high-THC). The bill eliminates cannabimon from the “cannabis” definition. It also specifically excludes from the “cannabis” definition: CBN, cannabigerol (CBG), cannabichromene (CBC), or any other minor cannabinoid derived from hemp.

§ 13 — STATEWIDE CANNABIS, HEMP, AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ENFORCEMENT BOARD

Renames the Statewide Cannabis and Hemp Enforcement Policy Board, reduces its membership, and expands the purposes of its meetings to include controlled substances issues; exempts its quarterly meeting-related records from disclosure under FOIA

The bill renames the “Statewide Cannabis and Hemp Enforcement Policy Board” as the “Statewide Cannabis, Hemp, and Controlled Substances Enforcement Board.” It correspondingly expands the purposes of the board’s quarterly meetings to include identifying areas of need and enforcement opportunities concerning controlled substance sales and examining developments in national trends and best practices for controlled substance enforcement. Existing law already requires them to meet about these enforcement topics for cannabis and hemp. The bill eliminates the requirement that these meetings examine (1) scientific developments and public health studies on cannabis and hemp and (2) developments in the cannabis and hemp industries. The bill exempts the quarterly meetings, and documents related to them, from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The bill also reduces board membership by removing the public health commissioner and the Social Equity Council’s executive director. As under existing law, the board still includes the attorney general, the

chief state's attorney, and the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP), emergency services and public protection, mental health and addiction services, and revenue services commissioners, or their designees.

**§§ 23-25, 27, 29, 32, 34, 39, 47, 53, 63-64, 66, 68-69, 77, 79, 81-84, 86
— QUALIFYING OUT-OF-STATE PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS
FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS**

Generally allows qualifying out-of-state patients and their qualified caregivers to purchase and possess, among other things, medical cannabis in the same manner and under the same conditions as Connecticut qualifying patients and their caregivers

The bill generally allows qualifying out-of-state patients and caregivers to acquire, distribute, transfer, possess, and use medical cannabis in the same way as Connecticut qualifying patients and their caregivers.

A "qualifying out-of-state patient" is a resident of another U.S. state or jurisdiction with a valid credential there to use medical cannabis. A "qualifying out-of-state caregiver" is a person, other than the patient, who is at least age 18, a resident of another U.S. state or jurisdiction, is a parent, guardian, or person with legal custody of the patient, and holds a valid out-of-state credential. This credential is a card or other physical document the state or jurisdiction issues to allow the (1) patient to use medical cannabis or (2) caregiver to take responsibility for managing a qualifying patient's medical cannabis use.

Sales

The bill allows dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers (those licensed to sell both adult-use and medical cannabis) to dispense, sell, or distribute medical cannabis to qualifying out-of-state patients and their qualified caregivers. They may do this if the patient or caregiver who is purchasing the medical cannabis, at the time of purchase, provides:

1. a DCP registration form that the patient or caregiver signs that includes their name,

2. an acknowledgement that they understand the Connecticut medical cannabis laws and regulations on out-of-state patients and their caregivers and that they will be ineligible in the medical market if they violate any of these laws or regulations and are prohibited from transporting the cannabis over state lines or internationally, and
3. any other information the DCP commissioner reasonably requires.

The bill requires each dispensary facility or hybrid retailer to submit the DCP registration form it receives from the out-of-state qualifying patient or their caregiver to DCP.

The bill requires a qualifying out-of-state patient or their qualified caregiver who purchases medical cannabis to possess the valid qualifying out-of-state credential at all times while in this state and in possession of the medical cannabis.

Liability

Under the bill, a qualifying out-of-state patient or caregiver who complies with Connecticut laws on medical and adult-use cannabis is not subject to arrest, prosecution, or penalty in any manner. This includes being subject to any civil penalty or denied any right or privilege, including being subject to any disciplinary action by a professional board, for using medical cannabis if the amount possessed does not exceed five ounces. This immunity does not apply to any medical cannabis use that endangers the health or well-being of others or ingesting cannabis in certain areas, such as moving vehicle, workplace, or school grounds.

§§ 31 & 67 — DISPENSARIES AND HYBRID RETAILERS

Eliminates the requirement that cannabis or medical cannabis be dispensed by a licensed pharmacist; allows automated systems to record and upload data to the state's electronic prescription drug monitoring program; specifically allows pharmacists, dispensary technicians, and other registered employees to perform most authorized activities; eliminates the minimum on-site presence requirement for pharmacists, though in-person consultations must be scheduled upon request

Pharmacist Requirements Reduced

The bill eliminates the requirement that cannabis or medical cannabis be dispensed to a qualifying patient or caregiver by a licensed pharmacist, and correspondingly eliminates the requirement that pharmacists conduct remote order entry verification. The bill broadly allows a dispensary facility's or hybrid retailer's licensed pharmacist, dispensary technician, or other registered employee, to perform the establishment's authorized activities, including all activities related to the sale, handling, or management of cannabis or medical cannabis products.

Current law allows only the pharmacist or dispensary technician to upload data to the electronic prescription drug monitoring program. The bill also allows the data to be uploaded through an automated upload from the hybrid retailer's point-of-sale system. But it requires the pharmacist to conduct a daily audit of the uploaded data.

Current law requires dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers to have a licensed pharmacist on premises for at least eight consecutive hours per calendar week when the location is open, with telehealth consultations being available the other times. The bill instead requires them to ensure one is available (1) when the location is open (on-site or by telehealth) and (2) for telehealth consultations for at least 35 hours per week. They must also ensure the pharmacist is available for an in-person consultation upon a qualifying patient or caregiver's request. The bill eliminates the requirement that individual telehealth pharmacists must be employed by a retailer for at least 20 hours per week.

The bill also eliminates the requirement for pharmacists who consult with qualifying patients or caregivers to annually complete at least five contact hours of continuing professional education on the cannabis industry, the state pharmacy laws, or the treatment of debilitating medical conditions.

As under existing law, dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers must

still conspicuously post a sign with the name of the licensed pharmacist that is available for consultation.

Privacy Training

Under the bill, a dispensary facility and hybrid retailer's registered employees who sell any cannabis or medical cannabis to a qualifying patient, qualifying out-of-state patient, or caregiver must take at least one hour of educational training on each of the following topics:

1. types, availability, dosage, and methods of administering marijuana for palliative use;
2. professional ethics;
3. state and federal patient privacy laws and regulations; and
4. developments in medical cannabis product use.

DCP Regulations for Dispensary Facilities

The bill requires the DCP commissioner to adopt or amend regulations to implement these provisions for dispensary facilities (such as those on uploading data and offering telehealth services). Regardless of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act's (UAPA) regulation adoption process, in order to carry out the bill's purposes and protect public health and safety and before adopting the required regulations, the commissioner must issue policies and procedures to implement this provision. These policies and procedures have the force and effect of law.

At least 15 days before the policies and procedures take effect, the act requires the commissioner to post them on DCP's website and submit them to the General Law Committee and the secretary of the state (SOTS) to be posted on the eRegulations system. A policy or procedure is no longer effective once SOTS codifies the final regulation or July 1, 2028, whichever occurs earlier.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 32 & 87 – “DISPENSARY” IN ADVERTISING

Allows retailers to use the term “dispensary” in their advertising

The bill allows retailers to use the term “dispensary” in their marketing, advertising, or promotional materials, or on any sign, branding item, logo, or label.

Current law only allows dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers to use the word “dispensary” or any variation of the word for advertisement purposes.

By law, a “retailer” is a person, excluding a dispensary facility or hybrid retailer, that is licensed to (1) purchase cannabis from producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product manufacturers, and food and beverage manufacturers and (2) sell cannabis to consumers and research programs.

§§ 44 & 52 – DEADLINES FOR SAMPLES THAT FAILED LABORATORY TESTING

Generally sets a 60-day deadline to dispose of medical marijuana and cannabis samples that fail testing

The bill generally sets a 60-day deadline to dispose of medical cannabis and cannabis batches that fail sample testing. It also requires each cannabis establishment to submit cannabis or medical cannabis to a cannabis testing laboratory for testing based on standards set in DCP regulations, rather than based on statute.

By law, a “cannabis establishment” is a cannabis producer, dispensary facility, cultivator, micro-cultivator, retailer, hybrid retailer, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer or packager, delivery service, or transporter.

Existing law requires each cannabis establishment to submit cannabis samples to a cannabis testing laboratory for testing. For samples that fail, cannabis establishments may repeat the test, remediate the sample and then retest, or dispose of the batch, as appropriate. The bill generally retains these procedures, but sets specific deadlines for compliance.

Testing

Under the bill, if the cannabis samples taken from a batch pass the laboratory testing, then the batch must be released for sale. If the sample fails, the cannabis establishment that submitted it has 60 days after the failed testing to repeat the testing, submit a remediation plan to DCP, or dispose of the entire batch based on posted DCP procedures, unless the cannabis establishment requests a 60-day extension from DCP. The commissioner may only grant two requests for any batch.

Within 60 days after a repeated test, if the samples pass, then the batch may be released for sale.

Remediation Plan

For each remediation plan submitted to DCP, the commissioner must, within 60 days after receiving the plan:

1. review the plan to determine whether it is sufficient to ensure public health and safety;
2. approve or reject the plan based on the determination; and
3. send a written notice to the cannabis establishment that submitted the plan, the approval or rejection and, for rejections, the reasons for the rejection.

If the commissioner does not send a written notice to the cannabis establishment within 60 days, the remediation plan is deemed approved.

If the commissioner approves the remediation plan, or if the remediation plan is deemed approved, the cannabis establishment must remediate the cannabis batch with the failed samples and repeat all required laboratory testing. If the samples pass, then the whole batch must be released for sale, but if it fails, then the batch must be disposed of within 60 days based on the procedure above unless an extension is requested and granted.

§§ 47, 66 & 68— PERSONAL DATA RETENTION

Prohibits retailers and hybrid retailers from retaining any personal data they obtain for age verification purposes for more than 24 hours without written consent

The bill prohibits retailers and hybrid retailers from keeping any personal data they obtain for age verification purposes for more than 24 hours without written consent. “Personal information” is any information linked or reasonably linkable to an identified or identifiable individual. It does not include de-identified data or publicly available information.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

§ 48 — CANNABIS REGULATORY WORKING GROUP

Establishes a cannabis regulatory working group to (1) study and recommend new or amended regulations or policies and procedures concerning cannabis and (2) propose legislation concerning cannabis

The bill establishes a cannabis regulatory working group to (1) study regulations adopted or proposed, and policies and procedures issued or proposed, by the DCP commissioner and the Social Equity Council concerning cannabis; (2) recommend new or amended regulations or policies and procedures concerning cannabis; and (3) propose legislation concerning cannabis.

The working group consists of four members with each of the General Law Committee’s House and Senate chairpersons and ranking members appointing one member, who may be a legislator. The committee’s chairpersons must select the working group’s chairpersons from among the members.

The bill requires initial appointments to the working group to be made by October 31, 2026, with the appointing authority filling any vacancy. The chairpersons must schedule and hold the working group’s first meeting by December 1, 2026.

The bill requires the General Law Committee’s administrative staff to serve as the working group’s administrative staff.

The bill requires the working group to submit a report on its findings

and recommendations to the General Law Committee by January 1, 2027. The working group ends on that date or when it submits the report, whichever is later.

§ 49 — 30 DAY CREDIT LIMIT

Generally prohibits retailers, hybrid retailers, or dispensary facilities from borrowing money or being extended credit for more than 30 days from a cultivator, micro-cultivator, or producer

The bill broadly prohibits retailers, hybrid retailers, and dispensary facilities from borrowing money or receiving credit, directly or indirectly in any form, for more than 30 days from any cultivator, micro-cultivator, or producer.

§ 50 — MINIMUM EMPLOYEES REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY

Allows cannabis establishments to deliver or transport cannabis with only one employee when transporting to another cannabis establishment, testing laboratory, or research program if the vehicle is equipped with certain devices and containers

Current policies and procedures require at least two transporting agents per transport vehicle when there is more than two pounds of cannabis flower and cannabis trim or their equivalency. Regardless of any medical cannabis or adult-use cannabis law, the bill allows cannabis establishments to deliver or transport cannabis with only one employee when transporting to another cannabis establishment, testing laboratory, or research program if the vehicle is equipped with certain devices and containers to prevent diversion, theft, or loss. The vehicle must have:

1. an electronic recording device that records the vehicle's interior at all times while the vehicle is used to deliver or transport cannabis;
2. an electronic tracking device that tracks, in real time, the vehicle's geospatial location through a global positioning system while the vehicle is delivering or transporting cannabis; and
3. a secure container that holds all the cannabis being delivered or transported and is permanently affixed to the vehicle.

The bill allows the DCP commissioner to adopt policies and procedures and regulations to implement these provisions.

§ 51 — FENCE HEIGHT

Prohibits requiring a producer, cultivator, or micro-cultivator that cultivates cannabis outdoors to maintain a perimeter fence that is more than eight feet tall

Regardless of any medical or adult-use cannabis law, the bill prohibits requiring a producer, cultivator, or micro-cultivator that cultivates cannabis outdoors to maintain a perimeter fence that is more than eight feet tall.

§ 53 — IMMEDIATE THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Broadens the circumstances under which a municipality may prohibit a business from operating because it poses an “immediate threat to public health and safety”; allows law enforcement officers to summarily close a business and seal the premises upon court order

Existing law allows municipalities to take certain actions if any business poses an “immediate threat to public health and safety.” They may, by the legislative body’s vote, prohibit these businesses from operating in the municipality and apply to the Superior Court for an order directing the municipality’s chief law enforcement officer to take possession and control of any related merchandise from the business, including any cannabis, cannabis product, cigarette, tobacco, or tobacco product, any merchandise associated with those items, and any proceeds from them. In addition to these actions, the bill allows the court to direct the officer to summarily close the business and seal the premises.

The bill also broadens the circumstances under which a municipality may prohibit a business from operating by adding additional violations to what is considered an “immediate threat to public health and safety.” Existing law includes, among other things, the presence of any cigarette, tobacco product, e-cigarette liquid, electronic nicotine delivery system, or liquid nicotine container alongside any cannabis or cannabis product. Under the bill, the presence of the following is also considered an immediate threat:

1. any nicotine product alongside any cannabis or cannabis product

- or otherwise being sold unlawfully;
2. any schedule I or II controlled substance;
 3. 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 the product has caused personal injury or illness; or
 4. any unlawful firearm.

The bill also deems any documented unauthorized sale of any product to an underaged person to be an immediate threat.

By law, a violation is a Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA) violation and violators must additionally be assessed a civil fine of \$30,000 for each violation. Anyone who aids or abets these violations must also be assessed a \$30,000 civil fine for each violation. The law also imposes a \$10,000 civil fine on people who manage or control certain commercial property and knowingly make the area available for use in violation of the laws on cannabis or cannabis product sales. In all three cases, each day a violation continues is a separate offense. If the municipality institutes the civil enforcement action, any imposed penalty must be paid to the municipality.

Background — CUTPA

By law, CUTPA prohibits businesses from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices. It allows the DCP commissioner, under specified procedures, to issue regulations defining an unfair trade practice, investigate complaints, issue cease and desist orders, order restitution in cases involving less than \$10,000, impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000, enter into consent agreements, ask the attorney general to seek injunctive relief, and accept voluntary statements of compliance. It also allows individuals to sue. Courts may issue restraining orders; award actual and punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees; and impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for willful violations and up to \$25,000 for a restraining order violation.

§§ 54, 56, 59, 62, 71 & 74-76 — CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL

Allows a change in ownership or control in an equity joint venture after six years of final licensure; allows the social equity applicant to request the Social Equity Council perform a nonfinancial review of the change; sets requirements for the council when conducting the review; requires the person acquiring ownership or control to pay certain fees and outstanding balances before the change is effective

Existing law prohibits cultivators, producers, dispensary facilities, and micro-cultivators from increasing their ownership in an equity joint venture by more than 50% for seven years after receiving final licensure. The law also requires the Social Equity Council to develop criteria for evaluating ownership and control of any equity joint venture.

Change After Year Five

The bill generally prohibits any contract from being entered or renewed after it passes in which an equity joint venture's ownership or control would change and the venture would not be controlled and at least 50% owned by someone who qualifies as a social equity applicant.

The bill allows a change if at least five years have passed since the final license was issued and at least 90 days before the change, the equity joint venture:

1. submits written notice to the council disclosing that the venture intends to make the change and
2. sends written notice to the social equity applicant disclosing that he or she may, within 60 days before the change is effective, submit a written request for the council to perform an optional nonfinancial review of the change.

If the council receives a written request, within 30 days before the change becomes effective it must complete the review to determine whether the social equity applicant (1) has retained legal counsel to advise him or her on the change; (2) understands the structure and implications; (3) understands the financial terms; (4) has engaged with his or her business partners, if any, to ensure that the change is appropriate; and (5) consents to the change free of any coercion or

undue pressure. The review must also determine whether the change complies with the venture's organizational documents.

The council must also, at least 30 days before the change, send a written notice to the social equity applicant and the equity joint venture disclosing the results of the review.

Under the bill, to finalize the change, the person acquiring the ownership or control, must pay the council:

1. an \$8,000 nonrefundable transaction fee, which must be deposited into the social equity innovation account, and
2. the outstanding balance on all loans issued to the equity joint venture or the social equity applicant as part of the cannabis-business revolving loan program, which provides, among other things, low-interest loans to social equity applicants to rehabilitate, renovate, or develop unused or underused real property for use as a cannabis establishment.

The bill specifies that this provision does not allow the council to delay or reject any change because of the results of the optional nonfinancial review. Any change that is made in violation of this provision is void and has no effect.

Regulations

The bill requires the council to adopt regulations to implement this provision. Regardless of the UAPA's regulation adoption process, to carry out this provision and before adopting the regulations, the council must issue policies and procedures, by October 1, 2026, to implement the bill's provisions. These policies and procedures have the force and effect of law. At least 15 days before the policies and procedures take effect, the bill requires the council to post them on its website and submit them to SOTS to be posted on the eRegulations system. A policy or procedure is no longer effective once SOTS codifies the final regulation or, if the regulations have not been submitted to the Regulation Review Committee, October 1, 2027, whichever occurs earlier.

Under the bill, the council may refer any violation of these policies or procedures or regulations to DCP for administrative enforcement action, which may result in a fine of up to \$10 million or action against the cannabis establishment's license.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except a technical change (§ 74) is effective October 1, 2026.

§ 54 — SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL

Allows the Social Equity Council to conduct investigations related to its purposes and duties; consolidates its required reporting by eliminating its monthly reporting requirement and instead adds the BPRC to the quarterly report's recipients

Duties

The bill allows the Social Equity Council to conduct investigations it needs to carry out its duties for complaints or concerns that are brought before the council by a social equity applicant and relate to the protection, enforcement, or advancement of equity under the adult-use cannabis laws.

The bill also specifies that various actions it may take are done to carry out its duties.

Report

Under current law, the Social Equity Council must submit (1) a monthly report to the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus (BPRC) and (2) quarterly reports to the governor, legislative leaders, and Appropriations and General Law chairpersons.

The bill consolidates the reporting by eliminating the monthly reporting requirement and instead adds the BPRC to the quarterly report. These reports have similar requirements, except the monthly report requires the council to report on planned expenditures for the following month while the quarterly report covers expenditures already made. The monthly report also requires the pending social equity applicant applications to be broken down by municipality, assembly district, and senate district, while the quarterly report requires pending social equity applicant applications, social equity plans, and workforce

development plans to be broken down by how long they have been pending.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 57 — ADDING BACKERS OR PROVISIONAL LICENSEES

Allows an applicant or provisional licensee that is a social equity applicant to apply to the DCP commissioner for a one-time replacement of an original backer, if the backer is not a social equity applicant

Existing law generally prohibits additional backers from being added to a cannabis establishment application between the lottery entry or initial license application and when the final license is awarded.

The bill allows an applicant or provisional licensee that is a social equity applicant to apply to the DCP commissioner, in a way he prescribes, for a one-time replacement of an original backer, if the backer is not a social equity applicant.

§§ 58, 65, 73, 78 & 80 — POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SUBMISSION

Extends the maximum effective period of cannabis policies and procedures until July 1, 2028; requires the policies and procedures that DCP and the Social Equity Council submit for posting on the eRegulations system to also be submitted to the General Law Committee

Current law requires DCP and the Social Equity Council to issue policies and procedures to implement various cannabis provisions that are effective until final regulations are adopted or either September 22, 2026, or October 1, 2026. The bill extends the maximum effective period of these policies and procedures until July 1, 2028.

The bill requires the policies and procedures related to adult-use cannabis that DCP and the Social Equity Commission must submit for posting on the eRegulations systems to also be submitted to the General Law Committee. As under existing law, they must submit the policies and procedures at least 15 days before they are effective.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 64 — MICRO-CULTIVATORS RETAIL FACILITIES

Allows micro-cultivators with a hybrid retailer or retailer endorsement to locate the facility within the same disproportionately impacted area as the premises; limits the sales types micro-cultivators with a hybrid retailer endorsement may make

Under current law, micro-cultivators with a hybrid retailer or retailer endorsement must locate the facility (1) on the same premises as the micro-cultivator or (2) within 100 feet of the premises measured from the point that is closest to the premises. The bill also allows them to locate a facility within the same disproportionately impacted area as the premises.

Current law also allows micro-cultivators with a hybrid retailer endorsement to sell medical cannabis to qualified (in-state) patients and caregivers through a delivery service or using their own employees. The bill narrows the sales types allowed to in-state patients by only allowing a micro-cultivator to sell to them through a delivery service.

§§ 66 & 68 — MEDICAL CANNABIS PRODUCT SALES TO CONSUMERS

Allows for the sale of certain products that are currently only available to qualifying patients to other consumers; requires certain cannabis establishments to reserve these products for exclusive sale for at least 14 days after release

Regardless of any adult-use or medical marijuana laws, the bill allows a retailer or hybrid retailer to sell the following medical use cannabis products to consumers:

1. cannabis concentrates;
2. topical treatments, except transdermal patches;
3. creams;
4. tablets and capsules;
5. rosins; and
6. products intended for sublingual absorption (under the tongue).

The bill requires producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product packagers, product manufacturers, and food and beverage

manufacturers to reserve these medical use cannabis products for sale exclusively to dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers for at least 14 days after the products are released to the market.

It also requires hybrid retailers to reserve these products for qualifying in- or out-of-state patients and caregivers for 14 days after receiving a shipment.

The bill requires DCP to adopt regulations on additional palliative use cannabis product sales.

§ 79 — THC LEVELS

Lifts the cap on THC by dry-weight-bases for cannabis flower, other plant material, and concentrates, and prohibits DCP from limiting their dosage, potency, or concentration; allows edibles to have a variance reflecting testing method uncertainty of up to +/- 10% of existing law's five mgs limit; eliminates DCP's ability to adjust certain maximum THC percentages for public health reasons or when there is a shortage

Current law prohibits cannabis establishments from selling to consumers (1) cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material with a total THC concentration over 35% on a dry-weight basis or (2) cannabis products (including concentrates) with a total THC concentration over 70% on a dry-weight basis. The bill eliminates the THC cap for cannabis flower, other plant material, and concentrates by removing (1) cannabis flower and other plant material from the 35% cap and (2) concentrates from the 70% cap.

It also prohibits DCP from limiting the dosage, potency, or concentration of cannabis products, cannabis flower, or other cannabis plant material (even if intended to address public health, market access, or shortage concerns).

The bill requires any cannabis flower or cannabis plant material that contains a total THC percentage greater than 30% to include a warning that it is a high-potency product and may increase the risk of psychosis. This is already a requirement for cannabis concentrates.

Under the bill, "other cannabis plant material" is cannabis trim and all parts of any plant or species of the genus cannabis, or any biological

group below, excluding (1) the growing plant and its seeds, (2) cannabis flower or hemp, and (3) an uprooted clone or uprooted cutting of the cannabis plants.

Edibles

Current law requires DCP to issue policies and procedures and adopt regulations to set appropriate dosage, potency, concentration, and serving size limits and delineation requirements for edible cannabis products and beverages, as long as a standardized serving contains no more than five milligrams (mgs) of THC (unless it is a medical marijuana product). The bill allows edibles to have a variance in THC value, reflecting cannabis testing laboratory method uncertainty, of up to plus or minus 10%.

§ 79 — IONIZING RADIATION REMEDIATION

Specifies the permitted remediation practices must include remediating cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material by ionizing radiation

Existing law requires the DCP commissioner to issue policies and procedures and adopt regulations establishing permitted remediation practices. The bill specifies this must include allowing remediating cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material by one or more exposures to ionizing radiation if it fails any laboratory testing due to microbial contamination.

§§ 85, 93-98, 104-108 & 115 — INFUSED BEVERAGES

Increases the allowable THC levels, from three to five mgs, for infused beverages sold in package stores and from three mgs to 10 mgs, for ones sold in a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer, or retailer; allows for a testing method uncertainty of +/- 10% in the reported THC value; allows infused beverage manufacturers to sell infused-beverages for off-premises consumption and allows them to sell certain other beverages for on-premises consumption; allows infused beverages to be tested by out-of-state laboratories; modifies the container labeling requirements to additionally follow ASTM standards; eliminates obsolete references to legacy infused beverages

Increased Allowable THC Levels

The bill increases the allowable THC levels in an infused beverage to be sold or offered for sale within the state. Under current law, infused beverages may have up to three mgs per container. The bill increases this amount to (1) five mgs if the infused beverage is sold at a package

store and (2) 10 mgs if it is sold at a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer, or retailer. The bill specifies the actual amount of THC can vary due to cannabis testing laboratory method uncertainty, by up to plus or minus 10% of the reported THC value. By law and unchanged by the bill, infused beverages cannot contain alcohol. The bill specifies that these beverages may contain caffeinated coffee or tea.

On-premises Beverage Sales

The bill allows an infused beverage manufacturer to sell beverages at retail for on-premises consumption if the beverages:

1. are manufactured on the premises and the sales are made and the beverages are consumed in a room or area separate from the manufacturing area, and
2. the beverage is not an infused or alcoholic beverage and does not contain THC (the bill would allow certain CBD drinks to be sold for on-premises consumption, for example).

Off-premises Infused Beverage Sales

Under the bill, an infused beverage manufacturer may sell infused beverages at retail for off-premises consumption if the beverages are manufactured on the premises and sold in a room physically separate from where they were manufactured. The manufacturer cannot sell more than 12 containers per day to a consumer.

The bill requires these manufactures to assess a \$1 fee on each container it sells at retail. Existing law assess the same fee amount for infused beverages sold at certain cannabis establishments and package stores. This fee is not subject to any sales tax or treated as income. Beginning April 1, 2027, and every six months after, each manufacturer must remit payment to DCP for each container sold during the previous six-month period. DCP must deposit the funds into the consumer protection enforcement account that is used to protect public health and safety, educate consumers and licensees, and ensure compliance with cannabis and liquor laws.

As under existing law, infused beverages may only be sold to those age 21 and older.

Interstate Transportation and Derivative Resale Prohibited

The bill specifies that the infused beverage law does not authorize (1) interstate transportation of any product in violation of federal law, including the U.S. Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. § 1639o et seq.), and (2) intermediate hemp derivatives (see below) to be further distributed for resale. Generally, an intermediate hemp derivative is an oil or concentrate that is extracted using certain methods directly and exclusively from raw hemp and has a total THC concentration of more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis.

Hemp

The bill extends current law's requirement on where an infused beverage manufacturer must obtain hemp oil to cover all hemp. (Under the bill, these beverages must be made with either hemp, hemp oil, or an intermediate hemp derivative. Other hemp products cannot be used.) Under current law, manufacturers can only get hemp oil for infused beverage manufacturing that is intended to be sold or offered in the state from certain producers or growers. As under current law for hemp oil, the bill requires the hemp to be extracted:

1. from hemp grown by a (a) hemp producer, as evidenced by a producer-issued certificate of authenticity, or (b) licensed hemp grower regulated by a state, territory, or federally recognized Indian tribe and in accordance with a state or tribal plan the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved, as evidenced by a grower-issued certificate of authenticity, or
2. by a person who is actively credentialed by a state or federally recognized Indian tribe to extract hemp and in a tribe-credentialed facility.

Packaging Amount

The bill increases, from four to 12 containers, the number of infused

beverage containers that may be sold in a package. As under existing law, the containers must hold at least 12 fluid ounces.

Out-of-State Laboratories

The bill allows infused beverages to also be tested by similarly qualified out-of-state laboratories, rather than only DCP-regulated laboratories. As under existing law, each lot of an infused beverage in final form must be tested. These tests must be conducted using a representative sample and by collecting a minimum number of sample increments relative to the lot size.

Labeling

The bill modifies the labeling requirements for infused beverage containers by additionally requiring containers to have a symbol that satisfies ASTM International standard D8441. As under existing law, containers must also have a symbol that indicates the infused beverage is not legal or safe for those younger than age 21, which must be in a certain size and format that the DCP commissioner approves. Both symbols must be prominently displayed on the container.

§ 90 — DISCLOSING MATERIAL CHANGES TO THE SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL

Requires parties to a transaction with a social equity applicant that results in a material change to a cannabis establishment to submit certain information to the Social Equity Council, which the council must post on its website

Existing law requires anyone who enters a transaction that results in a material change to a cannabis establishment to file a written notice with the attorney general that includes the information he needs to determine if the transaction would violate antitrust laws. Under current law, this information is not subject to FOIA disclosure and may only be made public for relevant administrative or judicial action or proceedings.

Under the bill, certain information on these transactions must be given to the Social Equity Council for posting to its website.

Specifically, within 30 days after the effective date of any transaction

that results in a material change to a social equity applicant's cannabis establishment license, all parties to the transaction must submit written notice to the Social Equity Council. The notice must disclose the following information about the transaction:

1. its effective date;
2. each party's identity;
3. the nature of each cannabis establishment, broken down by license type; and
4. the nature, and a detailed description of, each material change made to a cannabis establishment.

The bill requires the council to post a copy of each written notice it receives on its website.

§§ 94 & 99-101 — HEMP MANUFACTURERS MAKING CANNABINOIDS AND INTERMEDIATE HEMP DERIVATIVES

Beginning December 1, 2026, allows hemp manufacturers to manufacture certain cannabinoids and intermediate hemp derivatives (extracts with a total THC concentration of more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis); requires manufacturers to exclusively sell these cannabinoids to certain cannabis establishments and the derivatives to the same establishments and infused beverage manufacturers

Manufacturing Allowed

Under the bill, starting December 1, 2026, a hemp manufacturer may manufacturer (1) CBG, CBN, or a DCP- approved manufactured cannabinoid and (2) intermediate hemp derivative to be incorporated into a manufacturer hemp product.

Permitted Sales

The manufacturer must exclusively offer and sell (1) these cannabinoids exclusively to a producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer, or food and beverage manufacturer and (2) the derivative to the cannabis establishments listed above or an infused beverage manufacturer.

Intermediate Hemp Derivatives

Under the bill, an “intermediate hemp derivative” is an oil or concentrate that is extracted directly and exclusively from raw hemp plant material and contains a total THC concentration of more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis. Commercial extracts are extracted by:

1. adding heat;
2. decarboxylation;
3. adding a Class 3 organic solvent as defined by the most recent U.S. Pharmacopeia, Chapter 467, or another solvent the DCP commissioner approves;
4. ethanol extraction;
5. carbon dioxide extraction;
6. a solventless extraction method, including using ice water, rosin pressing, dry sifting, or steam distillation; or
7. an extraction process not listed if the DCP commissioner approves the process.

Purchasing These Products

Under current law, an infused beverage manufacturer cannot use any hemp product other than hemp oil to manufacture infused beverages. The bill allows intermediate hemp derivatives to be used, in addition to hemp oil, beginning on December 1, 2026. It also broadly allows cannabis establishments to purchase these cannabinoids or derivatives after that date.

For these establishments and manufacturers, the bill requires that the cannabinoids or derivatives be manufactured according to the bill’s requirements and tracked as separate batches throughout the manufacturing process to document their disposition. Once the establishment or infused beverage manufacturer receives the cannabinoid or derivative, it is deemed cannabis and the licensee must comply with all the cannabis laws and regulations. The bill requires the

cannabis establishments and infused beverage manufacturer, as applicable, to retain (1) a copy of the certificate of analysis for the cannabinoid or intermediate hemp derivative they purchased from a manufacturer and (2) invoices and transport documents that show the quantity of the cannabinoid or derivative purchased and the date they received the cannabinoid or derivative.

Regulations

The bill allows the DCP commissioner to adopt regulations to implement these provisions, including provisions on product tracking information, security, and transportation. Regardless of the UAPA regulation adoption process, the commissioner must issue policies and procedures to implement this provision. These policies and procedures have the force and effect of law.

At least 15 days before the policies and procedures take effect, the act requires the commissioner to post them on DCP's website and submit them to SOTS to be posted on the eRegulations system. A policy or procedure is no longer effective once SOTS codifies the final regulation or July 1, 2028, whichever occurs earlier.

Storage Requirements

The law extends current law's infused beverage manufacturer hemp oil storage and labeling requirements to intermediate hemp derivatives. These products must be (1) stored in a secure locked location separate from any cannabis, (2) clearly and conspicuously labeled as hemp oil or intermediate hemp derivative solely for use in infused beverage manufacturing, and (3) solely used for infused beverage manufacturing.

Interstate Transportation

The bill specifies that the hemp law does not authorize interstate transportation of any product in violation of federal law, including the U.S. Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. § 1639o et seq.).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the infused beverage manufacturer provision is effective October 1, 2026.

§ 103 — FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANUFACTURER

Allows food and beverage manufacturers to manufacture, market, cultivate, and store hemp and hemp products under the same procedures and requirements as for certain other cannabis establishments

The bill allows food and beverage manufacturers to manufacture, market, cultivate, or store hemp or hemp products in accordance with existing hemp laws and regulations. As under existing law for certain other cannabis establishments, the food and beverage manufacturer may only obtain the hemp and hemp products from a person authorized under Connecticut law or the law of another U.S. state, territory, or possession or other sovereign entity to possess and sell these products.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 114 — DCP RECOMMENDATIONS ON MICRO-RETAILER LICENSE

Requires DCP to submit recommended legislation to establish a micro-retailer license for adult-use cannabis

The bill requires the DCP commissioner, by January 1, 2027, to submit a report to the General Law Committee recommending legislation to establish a micro-retailer license for adult-use cannabis.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Related Bills***

sSB 231 (File 174), favorably reported by the General Law Committee, among other things, has an identical provision for failed cannabis tests.

sHB 5351 (File 386), favorably reported by the General Law Committee, among other things, has substantially similar provisions on Social Equity Council investigations, consolidating reporting requirements, and allowing a replacement backer under certain circumstances. It also prohibits the change of ownership and control of social equity applicants for three years after final licensure but allows the Social Equity Council to provide otherwise through policies and procedures and regulations.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 8 (03/16/2026)