



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 4291



Offered by:

REP. CANDELORA V., 86th Dist.

REP. RUTIGLIANO, 123rd Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5350

File No. 401

Cal. No. 272

(As Amended)

"AN ACT CONCERNING CANNABIS, HEMP AND INFUSED BEVERAGE REGULATION."

1 Strike section 68 in its entirety and substitute the following in lieu
2 thereof:

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4 statutes, as amended by section 67 of this act, is repealed and the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

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

10 (b) A hybrid retailer may obtain cannabis from a cultivator, micro-
11 cultivator, producer, product packager, food and beverage
12 manufacturer, product manufacturer or transporter. In addition to the

13 activities authorized under section 21a-420t, as amended by this act, a
14 hybrid retailer may sell, transport or transfer cannabis to a cannabis
15 establishment, cannabis testing laboratory or research program. A
16 hybrid retailer may sell cannabis products to a consumer or research
17 program. A hybrid retailer shall not gift or transfer cannabis at no cost
18 to a consumer, qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state patient,
19 caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver as part of a commercial
20 transaction.

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

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

46 hybrid retailer shall ensure that a licensed pharmacist is readily
47 available to provide telehealth consultations for qualifying patients,
48 [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-
49 state caregivers and upon request by qualifying patients, [or] qualifying
50 out-of-state patients, caregivers or qualifying out-of-state caregivers, in-
51 person consultations for qualifying patients, [or] qualifying out-of-state
52 patients, caregivers or qualifying out-of-state caregivers. Nothing in this
53 subdivision shall be construed to require a hybrid retailer to maintain a
54 licensed pharmacist at the hybrid retailer location for more than thirty-
55 five hours per week either in-person or remotely.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 68	October 1, 2026	21a-420s