AN ACT CONCERNING THE RETAIL SALE OF CANNABIS.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective from passage) As used in this section, and sections 2 to 18, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Cannabis" means marijuana, as defined in section 21a-240 of the general statutes, except that marijuana does not include chemical compounds that are similar to cannabinon, cannabinol or cannabidiol in chemical structure;

2. "Consumer" means an individual who is twenty-one years of age or older;

3. "Cultivation" means cultivation, as defined in section 21a-408 of the general statutes;

4. "Dispense" means dispense, as defined in section 21a-240 of the general statutes;

5. "Distribute" means distribute, as defined in section 21a-240 of the general statutes;

6. "Laboratory" means a laboratory located in this state that is licensed by the department to provide analysis of controlled substances pursuant to section 21a-246 of the general statutes or section 10 of this act;

7. "Laboratory employee" means an individual who is (A) licensed as a laboratory employee pursuant to section 21a-408r of the general
statutes, or section 10 of this act, or (B) holds a temporary license issued pursuant to section 21a-408r of the general statutes, or section 10 of this act;

(8) "Cannabis concentrate" includes tinctures and extracts;

(9) "Cannabis cultivation facility" means a facility licensed to cultivate, prepare and package cannabis and sell cannabis to cannabis product manufacturing facilities, cannabis retailers and other cannabis cultivation facilities;

(10) "Cannabis establishment" means a cannabis cultivation facility, cannabis product manufacturing facility or cannabis retailer;

(11) "Cannabis product" means a cannabis concentrate or a product that contains cannabis, which may be combined with other ingredients, and is intended for use or consumption;

(12) "Cannabis product manufacturing facility" means a facility licensed to purchase cannabis, manufacture, prepare and package cannabis products and sell cannabis and cannabis products to cannabis product manufacturing facilities and cannabis retailers;

(13) "Cannabis retailer" means a person registered to purchase cannabis from cannabis cultivation facilities as well as to purchase cannabis and cannabis products from cannabis product manufacturing facilities and to sell cannabis and cannabis products to consumers;

(14) "Sale" or "Sell" means a sale, as defined in section 21a-240 of the general statutes;

(15) "Commission" means the Cannabis Commission established pursuant to section 2 of this act; and

(16) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective from passage) There shall be a Cannabis Commission composed of five commissioners, one of whom shall be the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, appointed by the Governor
in accordance with section 4-9a of the general statutes, two of whom shall have a professional background of not less than five years working in the fields of either social justice or civil rights and one of whom shall have a professional background of not less than five years working in the field of economic development. The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall be the chairperson of the commission. The commissioners, other than any commissioner already employed by the state, shall be compensated and shall work not less than twenty hours per week. The Governor shall fill any vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term. Not more than three commissioners shall be of the same political party. Each commissioner shall take the oath prescribed for executive officers. The Governor may remove any commissioner as provided in section 4-12 of the general statutes.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (Effective from passage) The Cannabis Commission established pursuant to section 2 of this act shall be part of the Department of Consumer Protection and shall have regulatory oversight of the retail sale of cannabis in this state pursuant to sections 1 to 18, inclusive, of this act. At a minimum, the commission shall employ an executive director, two staff members to review and process license applications submitted pursuant to sections 1 to 18, inclusive, of this act, two staff members dedicated to assisting applicants who submit applications pursuant to sections 1 to 18, inclusive, of this act and four staff members to oversee enforcement pursuant to sections 1 to 18, inclusive, of this act. The commission may employ such additional clerks, inspectors, agents and other assistants as it requires. The moneys received from permit fees collected pursuant to sections 1 to 18, inclusive, of this act shall be allocated to the Department of Consumer Protection for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this act.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (Effective from passage) The Cannabis Commission established pursuant to this act shall promote and encourage full participation in the cannabis industry by people from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement. The commission shall be provided a budget of not less
Proposed Substitute Bill No. 7371

than five hundred thousand dollars per year to engage in outreach to educate such persons regarding ownership and employment opportunities regarding cannabis establishments and to assist such applicants in a preapplication process, as established by the commission. The commission shall adopt policies and procedures, including, but not limited to:

(1) Establishing an "equity" applicant status for potential owners of cannabis establishments, to include individual persons from communities disproportionately impacted by high rates of arrest and conviction, as well as individuals who can demonstrate, via affidavit and other documentation as the commission may require, (A) requisite experience with cannabis cultivation, distribution or the sale or manufacture of cannabis products prior to the effective date of this section, or (B) a prior conviction for possession of cannabis;

(2) Requiring yearly reporting by each cannabis establishment to the commission regarding the diversity of its workforce and ownership, the overall percentages of which the commission shall make available to the public;

(3) For each class of licenses established pursuant to sections 1 to 18, inclusive, of this act, issue licenses to equity applicants not later than three months before other such licensed establishments, except that existing medical cannabis dispensaries and producers may apply for licenses pursuant to sections 1 to 18, inclusive, of this act at the same time as such equity applicants;

(4) Not prohibiting individuals with an infraction or misdemeanor drug charge from participating in the cannabis industry;

(5) Requiring that all licenses granted pursuant to sections 1 to 18, inclusive, of this act establish and adhere to policies that encourage diversity for purposes of employment, contracting and other professional service opportunities;

(6) Requiring that any cannabis establishment that is not owned by
an equity applicant comply with an approved plan to reinvest or
provide employment opportunities in those communities
disproportionately impacted by high rates of arrest and conviction and
having a history of economic disinvestment, as determined by the
commission; and

(7) Establishing a lower fee structure for equity applicants, after
establishing a fee structure based upon applicants' assets and income.

Sec. 5. (NEW) (Effective from passage) No commissioner of the
Cannabis Commission and no employee of the Department of
Consumer Protection who carries out the duties and responsibilities of
sections 1 to 18, inclusive, of this act, and any regulations enacted
pursuant thereto may, directly or indirectly, individually or as a
member of a partnership or as a shareholder of a corporation, have any
interest whatsoever in dealing in or in the manufacture, sale or testing
of cannabis, nor receive any commission or profit whatsoever from nor
have any interest whatsoever in the purchases or sales made by the
persons authorized pursuant to said sections of this act. No provision
of this section shall prevent any such commissioner or employee from
purchasing and keeping in his or her possession, for the personal use
of himself or herself or members of his or her family or guests, any
cannabis which may be purchased or kept by any person by virtue of
said sections.

Sec. 6. (Effective from passage) The Cannabis Commission shall
conduct a study to determine (1) if the establishment of a cannabis
micro business retailer license is feasible, and, if so, if such license
should be based on the amount of cannabis sold by the licensee, and
(2) if consumers or qualifying patients under chapter 420f of the
general statutes, who are twenty-one years of age and older, shall be
permitted to cultivate cannabis for personal use. Such study shall
include consideration of (A) reasonable precautions to ensure that the
plants are secure from unauthorized access or access by any individual
under twenty-one years of age, (B) the location where such cannabis
may be grown, and (C) any other related public safety or regulatory
issues the commission deems necessary. Not later than January 1, 2021, the commission shall report the conclusions of the study, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection, criminal law and finance and revenue.

Sec. 7. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) Except as provided in sections 1 to 18, inclusive, of this act or chapter 420f of the general statutes, no person, other than a cannabis retailer may distribute, sell or dispense cannabis or cannabis products to a consumer.

(b) No person may hold a cannabis establishment license issued pursuant to sections 1 to 18, inclusive, of this act, or be employed by a cannabis establishment unless such person is twenty-one years of age or older.

(c) On and after the effective date of this section, the Cannabis Commission may issue licenses for cannabis retailers. No person may act as a cannabis retailer or represent that such person is a licensed retailer, unless such person has obtained a license from the commission pursuant to this section. The commission shall adopt policies to avoid an overconcentration of cannabis retailers in any one area and to ensure that such retailers are located state-wide.

(d) The commission may license any person that applies for a license, provided the commission deems such applicant qualified to acquire, possess, distribute and dispense cannabis. At a minimum, the commission shall:

(1) Except as the commission may determine for equity applicants, establish a nonrefundable application fee of not less than five thousand dollars, a licensing fee of not less than five thousand dollars and a license renewal fee of not less than five thousand dollars;

(2) Provide for renewal of such cannabis retailer licenses annually;

(3) Establish health, safety and security requirements for cannabis
Proposed Substitute Bill No. 7371

retailers, which may include, but need not be limited to: (A) The ability to maintain adequate control against the diversion, theft and loss of cannabis acquired or possessed by the licensed cannabis retailer, and (B) the ability to maintain the knowledge, understanding, judgment, procedures, security controls and ethical standards to ensure optimal safety and accuracy in the distributing, dispensing and use of cannabis;

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

(5) Establish priority applicant status for cannabis retailer license applicants who demonstrate experience in or business practices that promote economic empowerment in communities disproportionately impacted by high rates of arrest and conviction, as determined by the commission;

(6) Prohibiting the retail sale of cannabis via products and packaging designed to appeal to children, including banning the use of cartoons, toys, animals, or children, and banning products that look like any specific tradmarked food product;

(7) Require cannabis products to be sold with a warning label or handout, developed by the commission after consultation with researchers knowledgeable about the risks and benefits of cannabis. Such label or handout shall include advice about the potential risks of cannabis and cannabis products, including: (A) The risks of driving under the influence of cannabis and the fact that doing so remains illegal; (B) the risk of cannabis use disorder and where a person may seek assistance for the disorder; (C) potential exacerbation of psychotic disorders; (D) adverse effects unique to younger adults, including those related to the developing mind; (E) potential adverse events and other risks; (F) risks of using cannabis during pregnancy or breast feeding; and (G) the need to safeguard cannabis and cannabis products from children and pets;
(8) Establish other licensing, renewal and operational standards deemed necessary by the commissioner and the commission; and

(9) Require each licensed cannabis retailer to utilize an electronic identity verification system approved by the commission, to ensure compliance with this act.

(e) No cannabis or cannabis product shall be dispensed from, obtained from or transferred to a location outside of this state by the holder of a cannabis retailer license.

Sec. 8. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) The Cannabis Commission may issue or renew a license for a person to be a cannabis cultivation facility. No person may act as a cannabis cultivation facility or represent that such person is a licensed cannabis cultivation facility unless such person has obtained a license from the commission pursuant to this section.

(b) The commission shall provide for the licensure and standards for cannabis cultivation facilities and shall determine the number of such facilities that may be licensed in this state to meet the needs of consumers. The commission may license any person who applies for a license, provided (1) such person is organized for the purpose of cultivating cannabis in this state, (2) the commission finds that such person is qualified to cultivate cannabis and sell, deliver, transport or distribute cannabis solely within this state pursuant to this act, and (3) the number of cannabis cultivation facility licenses issued does not exceed the number appropriate to meet the needs of consumers, as determined by the commission pursuant to this subsection. At a minimum, the commission shall:

(A) Establish priority applicant status for cannabis cultivation license applicants who demonstrate experience in or business practices that promote economic empowerment in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by high rates of arrest and incarceration, as determined by the commission;
(B) Establish large, medium and small cannabis cultivation licenses based upon cultivation volume, scale and facility location;

(C) Establish a nonrefundable application fee structure for each cannabis cultivation license, with a fee for a large cannabis cultivation license of not less than twenty-five thousand dollars for each application submitted, except as applicable to equity applicants, as the commission may determine;

(D) Establish a licensing fee structure for each cannabis cultivation license, with a fee for a large cannabis cultivation license of not less than seventy-five thousand dollars for each application submitted, except as applicable to equity applicants, as the commission may determine; a renewal fee of not less than seventy-five thousand dollars for each large cannabis cultivation facility;

(5) Provide for renewal of such cannabis cultivation facility licenses annually;

(6) Designate permissible locations for licensed cannabis cultivation facilities in this state;

(7) Establish financial requirements for cannabis cultivation facilities, under which each applicant demonstrates the financial capacity to build and operate a cannabis cultivation facility;

(8) Establish health, safety and security requirements for licensed cannabis cultivation facilities, which shall include, but need not be limited to, a requirement that each applicant or licensed cannabis cultivation facility demonstrate: (A) The ability to maintain adequate control against the diversion, theft and loss of cannabis cultivated by the cannabis cultivation facility, and (B) the ability to cultivate such cannabis in a secure manner;

(9) Establish standards and procedures for revocation, suspension, summary suspension and nonrenewal of cannabis cultivation facility licenses, provided such standards and procedures are consistent with the provisions of subsection (c) of section 4-182 of the general statutes;
(10) Establish other licensing, renewal and operational standards deemed necessary by the commissioner and the commission;

(11) Require each licensed cannabis cultivation facility to utilize an electronic identity verification system approved by the commission, to ensure compliance with this act; and

(12) Provide that the holder of a cannabis cultivation facility license:
   (A) May not hold, or have an investment interest in, a cannabis retailer license, and (B) may also hold a cannabis product manufacturing facility license.

(c) No cannabis cultivation facility shall cultivate cannabis for use outside of this state.

(d) The provisions of this section shall not prohibit an agricultural or farming operation, as defined in section 1-1 of the general statutes, from obtaining a cannabis cultivation license.

Sec. 9. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) The Cannabis Commission may issue or renew a license for a person to be a cannabis product manufacturing facility. No person may act as a cannabis product manufacturing facility or represent that such person is a licensed cannabis product manufacturing facility unless such person has obtained a license from the commission pursuant to this section.

(b) The commission shall provide for the licensure and standards for cannabis product manufacturing facilities. The commission may license any person who applies for a license, provided (A) such person is organized for the purpose of manufacturing cannabis products in this state, and (B) the commissioner finds that such applicant is qualified to manufacture cannabis products and sell, deliver, transport or distribute such products solely within this state pursuant to this act. At a minimum, the commission shall:

(1) Issue a cannabis product manufacturing facility extraction license that shall allow the holder of such license to perform any regulated extractions or chemical synthesis and all other
manufacturing activities authorized pursuant to this act;

(2) Issue at least one other type of cannabis product manufacturing facility license that does not allow the holder of such license to perform regulated solvent-based extractions but allows all other manufacturing activities authorized pursuant to this act;

(3) Establish a nonrefundable application fee of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars for each application submitted for a cannabis product manufacturing facility license pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and establish a license fee of not more than thirty-five thousand dollars and a renewal fee of not more than thirty-five thousand dollars for each such cannabis product manufacturing facility;

(4) Establish a nonrefundable application fee and a licensing fee structure for all of the other cannabis product manufacturing facilities considered and approved pursuant to this section, and consistent with the provisions of this act regarding equity applicants;

(5) Provide for renewal of cannabis product manufacturing facility licenses annually;

(6) Designate permissible locations for licensed cannabis product manufacturing facilities in this state;

(7) Establish financial requirements for cannabis product manufacturing facilities, under which each applicant demonstrates the financial capacity to build and operate a cannabis product manufacturing facility;

(8) Establish health, safety and security requirements for a licensed cannabis product manufacturing facility, which shall include, but need not be limited to, a requirement that the applicant or licensed cannabis product manufacturing facility demonstrates the ability to maintain adequate control against the diversion, theft and loss of cannabis and cannabis products;
(9) Establish standards and procedures for revocation, suspension, summary suspension and nonrenewal of cannabis product manufacturing facility licenses, provided such standards and procedures are consistent with the provisions of subsection (c) of section 4-182 of the general statutes;

(10) Require each licensed cannabis product manufacturing facility to utilize an electronic identity verification system approved by the commission, to ensure compliance with this act;

(11) Establish other licensing, renewal and operational standards deemed necessary by the commissioner and the commission; and

(12) Provide that the holder of a cannabis product manufacturing facility license: (A) May not hold, or have an investment interest in, a cannabis retailer license, and (B) may also hold a cannabis cultivation facility license.

(c) No cannabis product manufacturing facility shall manufacture products for distribution outside of this state.

Sec. 10. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, no person may act as a laboratory or a laboratory employee or represent that such person is a licensed laboratory or laboratory employee unless such person has obtained a license from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to this section or section 21a-408r or 21a-246 of the general statutes.

(b) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may issue a temporary license to a laboratory employee. The commissioner shall prescribe the standards, procedures and fees for obtaining a temporary license as a laboratory employee.

(c) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall (1) provide for the licensure of laboratories and laboratory employees, (2) establish standards and procedures for the revocation, suspension, summary suspension and nonrenewal of laboratory and laboratory employee licenses, provided such standards and procedures are consistent with
the provisions of subsection (c) of section 4-182 of the general statutes, (3) establish a license fee of not less than two hundred dollars and a renewal fee of not less than two hundred dollars for each licensed laboratory and licensed laboratory employee, and (4) establish other licensing, renewal and operational standards deemed necessary by the commissioner.

Sec. 11. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) No laboratory employee may (1) acquire cannabis from a person other than a licensed cannabis establishment or laboratory or organization engaged in a research program, (2) deliver, transport or distribute cannabis to (A) a person who is not so licensed, or (B) an organization not engaged in a research program, or (3) obtain or transport cannabis outside of this state in violation of state or federal law.

(b) Laboratory employees shall test samples of cannabis and cannabis products obtained from cannabis establishments for contaminants and potency. The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall establish testing protocol and requirements for reporting results.

Sec. 12. (NEW) (Effective from passage) The Cannabis Commission may, in its discretion, suspend, revoke or refuse to grant or renew any license under sections 1 to 18, inclusive, of this act for the same reasons and using the same procedures as the Department of Consumer Protection may use to suspend, revoke or refuse to grant a permit for the sale of alcoholic liquor pursuant to section 30-47 of the general statutes.

Sec. 13. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) Any town may, by town meeting or ordinance, prohibit the establishment of, or restrict the hours and signage of, a cannabis establishment within the limits of such town. A town shall not impose application or any other fees on any equity applicant approved by the Commission.

(b) The commission shall refuse licenses to cannabis establishments (1) for locations in towns that have opted not to host such an establishment pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or (2) where
prohibited by a zoning ordinance of any town.

Sec. 14. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the following acts, when performed by a cannabis retailer or a person who is acting in his or her capacity as an owner, employee or agent of a cannabis retailer, are not unlawful and shall not be an offense or a basis for seizure or forfeiture of assets:

(1) Possessing, displaying, storing or transporting cannabis or cannabis products;

(2) Purchasing cannabis from a cannabis cultivation facility;

(3) Purchasing cannabis or cannabis products from a cannabis product manufacturing facility;

(4) Delivering or transferring cannabis or cannabis products to a laboratory; and

(5) Delivering, distributing or selling cannabis or cannabis products to consumers.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the following acts, when performed by a cannabis cultivation facility or a person who is acting in his or her capacity as an owner, employee or agent of a cannabis cultivation facility, are not unlawful and shall not be an offense or a basis for seizure or forfeiture of assets:

(1) Cultivating, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, displaying, storing or possessing cannabis;

(2) Delivering or transferring cannabis to a cannabis testing facility;

(3) Delivering, distributing or selling cannabis to a cannabis cultivation facility, cannabis product manufacturing facility or cannabis retailer;

(4) Receiving or purchasing cannabis from a cannabis cultivation facility; and
(5) Receiving cannabis seeds or immature cannabis plants from another person.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the following acts, when performed by a cannabis product manufacturing facility or a person who is acting in his or her capacity as an owner, employee or agent of a cannabis product manufacturing facility, are not unlawful and shall not be an offense or a basis for seizure or forfeiture of assets:

(1) Packaging, processing, transporting, manufacturing, displaying or possessing cannabis or cannabis products;

(2) Delivering or transferring cannabis or cannabis products to a cannabis testing facility;

(3) Delivering or selling cannabis or cannabis products to a cannabis retailer or cannabis product manufacturing facility;

(4) Purchasing cannabis from a cannabis cultivation facility; and

(5) Purchasing cannabis or cannabis products from a cannabis product manufacturing facility.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the following acts, when performed by a laboratory or a person who is acting in his or her capacity as an owner, employee or agent of a laboratory, are not unlawful and shall not be an offense or a basis for seizure or forfeiture of assets:

(1) Possessing, cultivating, processing, repackaging, storing, transporting or displaying cannabis or cannabis products;

(2) Receiving cannabis or cannabis products from a cannabis establishment or another person;

(3) Returning cannabis or cannabis products to a cannabis establishment or another person.

(e) No provision of this section prevents the imposition of penalties
for violating the provisions of this act or section 21a-6 of the general
statutes.

Sec. 15. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) The Commissioner of
Consumer Protection, after consulting with the Cannabis Commission
shall implement the provisions of this act and section 21a-6 of the
general statutes. At a minimum, the commissioner shall establish:

(1) Requirements for the transportation and storage of cannabis and
cannabis products by cannabis establishments;

(2) Employment and training requirements, including requiring that
each cannabis establishment create an identification badge for each
employee or agent;

(3) Requirements designed to prevent the sale or diversion of
cannabis and cannabis products to persons under twenty-one years of
age;

(4) Requirements regarding the delivery of cannabis and cannabis
products by cannabis retailers and their employees, after considering
methods to increase delivery employment opportunities for persons
from communities disproportionately impacted by high rates of arrest
and conviction;

(5) Standards for cannabis product manufacturing facilities to
determine the amount of cannabis that cannabis products are
considered the equivalent to;

(6) Additional requirements for cannabis and cannabis products
sold or distributed by a cannabis establishment, including cannabis
products’ labels and packaging requirements, including, but not
limited to, the following:

(A) A disclosure concerning length of time it typically takes for the
cannabis product to affect an individual;

(B) A notation of the amount of cannabis the cannabis product is
considered the equivalent to;

(C) A list of ingredients and possible allergens for cannabis and cannabis products;

(D) A nutritional fact panel, if such cannabis product is edible;

(E) An opaque, child-resistant packaging, which is designed or constructed to be significantly difficult for children under five years of age to open and not difficult for adults to use properly as defined by 16 CFR 1700.20, as amended from time to time;

(F) Identification of edible cannabis products, when practicable, with a standard symbol indicating that it contains cannabis;

(G) The license number of the cannabis cultivation license;

(H) The license number of the cannabis retailer;

(I) The batch number of the cannabis or cannabis product;

(J) A net weight statement;

(K) A disclosure of any solvent used in the extraction process of cannabis concentrate, if applicable; and

(L) A recommended use by or expiration date for cannabis or cannabis products;

(7) Health and safety standards for the manufacture of cannabis products and indoor and outdoor cultivation of cannabis by cannabis cultivation facilities;

(8) Restrictions on advertising, marketing and signage, including, but not limited to, a prohibition on mass-market campaigns that have a high likelihood of reaching children;

(9) Restrictions on the display of cannabis and cannabis products, to ensure that cannabis and cannabis products may not be displayed in a manner that is visible to the general public from a public right-of-way;
(10) Restrictions or prohibitions on additives to cannabis and cannabis products, including, but not limited to, those that are toxic, designed to make the product more addictive, designed to make the product more appealing to children or misleading to consumers. The prohibition may not extend to common baking and cooking items;

(11) Protocols governing visits to cannabis cultivation facilities and cannabis product manufacturing facilities, including requiring the cannabis establishment to maintain a log of visitors;

(12) A definition of the amount of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol that constitutes a single serving in a cannabis product;

(13) Standards for the safe manufacture of cannabis concentrates;

(14) Requirements that educational materials be disseminated to consumers who purchase cannabis or cannabis products;

(15) Requirements for random sample testing to ensure quality control, including by ensuring that cannabis and cannabis products are accurately labeled for potency. Any such testing shall include testing for residual solvents, poisons, toxins, harmful chemicals, dangerous molds or mildew, filth, harmful microbials such as E. Coli or salmonella and pesticides;

(16) Standards for the operation of laboratories, including requirements for equipment and qualifications for personnel; and

(17) Civil penalties for the failure to comply with policies and procedures made pursuant to this act or section 21a-6 of the general statutes.

(b) No standard or requirement enacted pursuant to this act shall require a consumer to provide a cannabis retailer with personal information other than government issued identification to determine the consumer's age or a cannabis retailer to acquire and record personal information about consumers.
Sec. 16. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection and the Cannabis Equity Commission shall take steps to minimize the cost difference between cannabis products authorized pursuant to this act and those sold pursuant to chapter 420f of the general statutes. The commissioner shall cease charging the nonrefundable fee for administrative costs for each qualifying patient and the nonrefundable application fee for each qualifying patient and caregiver under chapter 420f of the general statutes. The commissioner shall cease charging the renewal fee for each qualifying patient under chapter 420f of the general statutes. The commissioner shall amend existing regulations to eliminate the fees, in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(b) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection and the Cannabis Commission shall conduct a study for the establishment of a program to subsidize purchases by low-income patients under chapter 420f of the general statutes. Not later than January 1, 2021, the commission shall report the conclusions of the study, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection and finance, revenue and bonding.

(c) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection and the Cannabis Commission shall (1) require that all cannabis retailers licensed pursuant to this act shall, if offering cannabis products for sale pursuant to chapter 420f of the general statutes, maintain a "fast-track" dispensing system for all patients approved as qualifying patients pursuant to chapter 420f of the general statutes; and (2) allow patients approved as qualifying patients pursuant to chapter 420f of the general statutes to purchase higher potency products that are not available for retail purchase and allow such patients a higher per transaction amount, as determined by the commission and commissioner.

Sec. 17. (NEW) (Effective from passage) For sufficient cause found, the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, suspend, revoke, issue fines of not more than one thousand dollars per violation, accept
an offer in compromise or refuse to grant or renew a license issued pursuant to this act, or place such license on probation, place conditions on such license, or take other actions permitted by law.

Sec. 18. (NEW) (Effective from passage) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt regulations pursuant to chapter 54 of the general statutes, including emergency regulations pursuant to section 4-168 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this act, including, but not limited to, requiring dispensaries to maintain expedited customer service for qualifying patients under chapter 420f of the general statutes and setting quantity restrictions on sales pursuant to this act, to ensure there are not shortages of medical products under chapter 420f of the general statutes and to limit the hours when dispensary facilities are allowed to be open for retail sales.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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