



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6699

LCO No. 4428



Referred to Committee on GENERAL LAW

Introduced by:
(GL)

AN ACT CONCERNING CANNABIS REGULATION.

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

1 Section 1. Section 21a-420 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

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

4 (1) "Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis
5 Act" or "RERACA" means this section, sections 2-56j, 7-294kk, 7-294ll,
6 12-330ll to 12-330nn, inclusive, 14-227p, 21a-278b, as amended by this
7 act, 21a-278c, 21a-279c, 21a-279d, 21a-420a to 21a-420i, inclusive, 21a-
8 420l to 21a-421r, inclusive, 21a-421aa to 21a-421ff, inclusive, 21a-421aaa
9 to 21a-421ggg, inclusive, 21a-422 to 21a-422c, inclusive, 21a-422e to 21a-
10 422g, inclusive, 21a-422j to 21a-422s, inclusive, 22-61n, 23-4b, 47a-9a, 53-
11 247a, 53a-213a, 53a-213b, 54-33p, 54-56q, 54-56r, 54-125k and 54-142u,
12 sections 23, 60, 63 to 65, inclusive, 124, 144 and 165 of public act 21-1 of
13 the June special session and the amendments in public act 21-1 of the
14 June special session to sections 7-148, 10-221, 12-30a, 12-35b, 12-412, 12-
15 650, 12-704d, 14-44k, 14-111e, 14-227a to 14-227c, inclusive, 14-227j, 15-

16 140q, 15-140r, 18-100h, 19a-342, 19a-342a, 21a-267, 21a-277, 21a-279, 21a-
17 279a, 21a-408 to 21a-408f, inclusive, 21a-408h to 21a-408p, inclusive, 21a-
18 408r to 21a-408v, inclusive, 30-89a, 31-40q, 32-39, 46b-120, 51-164n, 53-
19 394, 53a-39c, 54-1m, 54-33g, 54-41b, 54-56e, 54-56g, 54-56i, 54-56k, 54-
20 56n, 54-63d, 54-66a, 54-142e, 21a-421hhh, [and] 21a-420j and sections 2
21 and 15 of this act;

22 (2) "Backer" means any individual with a direct or indirect financial
23 interest in a cannabis establishment. "Backer" does not include an
24 individual with an investment interest in a cannabis establishment if (A)
25 the interest held by such individual and such individual's spouse,
26 parent or child, in the aggregate, does not exceed five per cent of the
27 total ownership or interest rights in such cannabis establishment, and
28 (B) such individual does not participate directly or indirectly in the
29 control, management or operation of the cannabis establishment;

30 (3) "Cannabis" means marijuana, as defined in section 21a-240;

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

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

41 (6) "Cannabis trim" means all parts, including abnormal or immature
42 parts, of a plant of the genus cannabis, other than cannabis flower, that
43 have been harvested, dried and cured, and prior to any processing
44 whereby the plant material is transformed into a cannabis product.
45 "Cannabis trim" does not include hemp, as defined in section 22-61l;

46 (7) "Cannabis product" means cannabis that is in the form of a

47 cannabis concentrate or a product that contains cannabis, which may be
48 combined with other ingredients, and is intended for use or
49 consumption. "Cannabis product" does not include the raw cannabis
50 plant;

51 (8) "Cannabis concentrate" means any form of concentration,
52 including, but not limited to, extracts, oils, tinctures, shatter and waxes,
53 that is extracted from cannabis;

54 (9) "Cannabis-type substances" have the same meaning as
55 "marijuana", as defined in section 21a-240;

56 (10) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer
57 Protection and includes any designee of the commissioner;

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

60 (12) "Cultivation" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-
61 408;

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

66 (14) "Delivery service" means a person that is licensed to deliver
67 cannabis from (A) micro-cultivators, retailers and hybrid retailers to
68 consumers and research program subjects, and (B) hybrid retailers and
69 dispensary facilities to qualifying patients, caregivers and research
70 program subjects, as defined in section 21a-408, or to hospices or other
71 inpatient care facilities licensed by the Department of Public Health
72 pursuant to chapter 368v that have a protocol for the handling and
73 distribution of cannabis that has been approved by the department, or a
74 combination thereof;

75 (15) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection;

76 (16) "Dispensary facility" means a place of business where cannabis
77 may be dispensed, sold or distributed in accordance with chapter 420f
78 and any regulations adopted [thereunder] pursuant to said chapter, to
79 qualifying patients and caregivers, and to which the department has
80 issued a dispensary facility license [under] pursuant to chapter 420f and
81 any regulations adopted [thereunder] pursuant to said chapter;

82 (17) "Disproportionately impacted area" means a United States
83 census tract in the state that has, as determined by the Social Equity
84 Council under section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, (A) a historical
85 conviction rate for drug-related offenses greater than one-tenth, or (B)
86 an unemployment rate greater than ten per cent;

87 (18) "Disqualifying conviction" means a conviction within the last ten
88 years which has not been the subject of an absolute pardon under the
89 provisions of section 54-130a, or an equivalent pardon process under the
90 laws of another state or the federal government, for an offense under (A)
91 section 53a-276, 53a-277 or 53a-278; (B) section 53a-291, 53a-292 or 53a-
92 293; (C) section 53a-215; (D) section 53a-138 or 53a-139; (E) section 53a-
93 142a; (F) sections 53a-147 to 53a-162, inclusive; (G) sections 53a-125c to
94 53a-125f, inclusive; (H) section 53a-129b, 53a-129c or 53a-129d; (I)
95 subsection (b) of section 12-737; (J) section 53a-48 or 53a-49, if the offense
96 which is attempted or is an object of the conspiracy is an offense under
97 the statutes listed in subparagraphs (A) to (I), inclusive, of this
98 subdivision; or (K) the law of any other state or of the federal
99 government, if the offense on which such conviction is based is defined
100 by elements that substantially include the elements of an offense under
101 the statutes listed in subparagraphs (A) to (J), inclusive, of this
102 subdivision;

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

109 (20) "Edible cannabis product" means a cannabis product, including,
110 but not limited to, a liquid, which may be combined with other
111 ingredients and is intended for human consumption, but does not
112 include raw cannabis plant material;

113 [(20)] (21) "Employee" means any person who is not a backer, but is a
114 member of the board of a company with an ownership interest in a
115 cannabis establishment, and any person employed by a cannabis
116 establishment or who otherwise has access to such establishment or the
117 vehicles used to transport cannabis, including, but not limited to, an
118 independent contractor who has routine access to the premises of such
119 establishment or to the cannabis handled by such establishment;

120 [(21)] (22) "Equity" and "equitable" means efforts, regulations,
121 policies, programs, standards, processes and any other functions of
122 government or principles of law and governance intended to: (A)
123 Identify and remedy past and present patterns of discrimination and
124 disparities of race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation; (B) ensure
125 that such patterns of discrimination and disparities, whether intentional
126 or unintentional, are neither reinforced nor perpetuated; and (C)
127 prevent the emergence and persistence of foreseeable future patterns of
128 discrimination or disparities of race, ethnicity, gender and sexual
129 orientation;

130 [(22)] (23) "Equity joint venture" means a business entity that is at
131 least fifty per cent owned and controlled by an individual or
132 individuals, or such applicant is an individual, who meets the criteria of
133 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(48)] (49) of this section;

134 [(23)] (24) "Extract" means the preparation, compounding, conversion
135 or processing of cannabis, either directly or indirectly by extraction or
136 independently by means of chemical synthesis, or by a combination of
137 extraction and chemical synthesis to produce a cannabis concentrate;

138 [(24)] (25) "Financial interest" means any right to, ownership, an
139 investment or a compensation arrangement with another person,
140 directly, through business, investment or family. "Financial interest"

141 does not include ownership of investment securities in a publicly-held
142 corporation that is traded on a national exchange or over-the-counter
143 market, provided the investment securities held by such person and
144 such person's spouse, parent or child, in the aggregate, do not exceed
145 one-half of one per cent of the total number of shares issued by the
146 corporation;

147 [(25)] (26) "Food and beverage manufacturer" means a person that is
148 licensed to own and operate a place of business that acquires cannabis
149 and creates food and beverages;

150 [(26)] (27) "Grow space" means the portion of a premises owned and
151 controlled by a producer, cultivator or micro-cultivator that is utilized
152 for the cultivation, growing or propagation of the cannabis plant, and
153 contains cannabis plants in an active stage of growth, measured starting
154 from the outermost wall of the room containing cannabis plants and
155 continuing around the outside of the room. "Grow space" does not
156 include space used to cure, process, store harvested cannabis or
157 manufacture cannabis once the cannabis has been harvested;

158 [(27)] (28) "Historical conviction count for drug-related offenses"
159 means, for a given area, the number of convictions of residents of such
160 area (A) for violations of sections 21a-267, 21a-277, 21a-278, 21a-279 and
161 21a-279a, and (B) who were arrested for such violations between
162 January 1, 1982, and December 31, 2020, inclusive, where such arrest
163 was recorded in databases maintained by the Department of Emergency
164 Services and Public Protection;

165 [(28)] (29) "Historical conviction rate for drug-related offenses"
166 means, for a given area, the historical conviction count for drug-related
167 offenses divided by the population of such area, as determined by the
168 five-year estimates of the most recent American Community Survey
169 conducted by the United States Census Bureau;

170 [(29)] (30) "Hybrid retailer" means a person that is licensed to
171 purchase cannabis and sell cannabis and medical marijuana products;

172 [(30)] ~~(31)~~ "Key employee" means an employee with the following
173 management position or an equivalent title within a cannabis
174 establishment: (A) President or chief officer, who is the top ranking
175 individual at the cannabis establishment and is responsible for all staff
176 and overall direction of business operations; (B) financial manager, who
177 is the individual who reports to the president or chief officer and who is
178 generally responsible for oversight of the financial operations of the
179 cannabis establishment, including, but not limited to, revenue
180 generation, distributions, tax compliance and budget implementation;
181 or (C) compliance manager, who is the individual who reports to the
182 president or chief officer and who is generally responsible for ensuring
183 the cannabis establishment complies with all laws, regulations and
184 requirements related to the operation of the cannabis establishment;

185 [(31)] ~~(32)~~ "Laboratory" means a laboratory located in the state that is
186 licensed by the department to provide analysis of cannabis that meets
187 the licensure requirements set forth in section 21a-246;

188 [(32)] ~~(33)~~ "Laboratory employee" means an individual who is
189 registered as a laboratory employee pursuant to section 21a-408r;

190 [(33)] ~~(34)~~ "Labor peace agreement" means an agreement between a
191 cannabis establishment and a bona fide labor organization under section
192 21a-421d, as amended by this act, pursuant to which the owners and
193 management of the cannabis establishment agree not to lock out
194 employees and that prohibits the bona fide labor organization from
195 engaging in picketing, work stoppages or boycotts against the cannabis
196 establishment;

197 [(34)] ~~(35)~~ "Manufacture" means to add or incorporate cannabis into
198 other products or ingredients or create a cannabis product;

199 [(35)] ~~(36)~~ "Medical marijuana product" means cannabis that may be
200 exclusively sold to qualifying patients and caregivers by dispensary
201 facilities and hybrid retailers and which are designated by the
202 commissioner as reserved for sale to qualifying patients and caregivers
203 and published on the department's Internet web site;

204 [(36)] (37) "Micro-cultivator" means a person licensed to engage in the
205 cultivation, growing and propagation of the cannabis plant at an
206 establishment containing not less than two thousand square feet and not
207 more than ten thousand square feet of grow space, prior to any
208 expansion authorized by the commissioner;

209 [(37)] (38) "Municipality" means any town, city or borough,
210 consolidated town and city or consolidated town and borough;

211 [(38)] (39) "Paraphernalia" means drug paraphernalia, as defined in
212 section 21a-240;

213 [(39)] (40) "Person" means an individual, partnership, limited liability
214 company, society, association, joint stock company, corporation, estate,
215 receiver, trustee, assignee, referee or any other legal entity and any other
216 person acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity, whether
217 appointed by a court or otherwise, and any combination thereof;

218 [(40)] (41) "Producer" means a person that is licensed as a producer
219 pursuant to section 21a-408i and any regulations adopted [thereunder]
220 pursuant to said section;

221 [(41)] (42) "Product manufacturer" means a person that is licensed to
222 obtain cannabis, extract and manufacture products exclusive to such
223 license type;

224 [(42)] (43) "Product packager" means a person that is licensed to
225 package and label cannabis;

226 [(43)] (44) "Qualifying patient" has the same meaning as provided in
227 section 21a-408;

228 [(44)] (45) "Research program" has the same meaning as provided in
229 section 21a-408;

230 [(45)] (46) "Retailer" means a person, excluding a dispensary facility
231 and hybrid retailer, that is licensed to purchase cannabis from
232 producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product manufacturers and

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

235 [(46)] (47) "Sale" or "sell" has the same meaning as provided in section
236 21a-240;

237 [(47)] (48) "Social Equity Council" or "council" means the council
238 established under section 21a-420d, as amended by this act;

239 [(48)] (49) "Social equity applicant" means a person that has applied
240 for a license for a cannabis establishment, where such applicant is at
241 least sixty-five per cent owned and controlled by an individual or
242 individuals, or such applicant is an individual, who:

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

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

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

251 [(49)] (50) "THC" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-
252 240;

253 [(50)] (51) "Third-party lottery operator" means a person, or a
254 constituent unit of the state system of higher education, that conducts
255 lotteries pursuant to section 21a-420g, identifies the cannabis
256 establishment license applications for consideration without
257 performing any review of the applications that are identified for
258 consideration, and that has no direct or indirect oversight of or
259 investment in a cannabis establishment or a cannabis establishment
260 applicant;

261 [(51)] (52) "Transfer" means to transfer, change, give or otherwise

262 dispose of control over or interest in;

263 [(52)] (53) "Transport" means to physically move from one place to
264 another;

265 [(53)] (54) "Transporter" means a person licensed to transport
266 cannabis between cannabis establishments, laboratories and research
267 programs; and

268 [(54)] (55) "Unemployment rate" means, in a given area, the number
269 of people sixteen years of age or older who are in the civilian labor force
270 and unemployed divided by the number of people sixteen years of age
271 or older who are in the civilian labor force.

272 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) On and after July 1, 2023, the
273 department may issue an off-site event permit to a retailer or hybrid
274 retailer. Such permit shall authorize the retailer or hybrid retailer to sell
275 cannabis, other than medical marijuana products, to consumers at an
276 event held in this state at a location other than such retailer's or hybrid
277 retailer's premises. Each permit issued by the department pursuant to
278 this section shall be nonrenewable, and shall be effective for a period of
279 time not to exceed three consecutive days. No retailer or hybrid retailer
280 shall receive more than four off-site event permits during any calendar
281 year. No retailer or hybrid retailer may engage in or operate more than
282 one off-site event on any day. No retailer or hybrid retailer may sell
283 cannabis in the manner described in this subsection unless such retailer
284 or hybrid retailer has obtained a permit from the department pursuant
285 to this section.

286 (b) Each retailer or hybrid retailer seeking a permit under this section
287 shall attest and affirm that such retailer or hybrid retailer has received,
288 or will receive, all municipal approvals required to engage in off-site
289 event sales prior to engaging in such sales, and that the off-site event is
290 not located in a municipality that has prohibited off-site sales of
291 cannabis pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, the establishment of
292 a cannabis establishment pursuant to subsection (b) of section 21a-422f
293 of the general statutes or the sale of cannabis pursuant to subsection (a)

294 of section 21a-422g of the general statutes. The department shall,
295 without further proceedings, immediately and summarily revoke any
296 permit issued pursuant to this section if the retailer or hybrid retailer
297 engages in off-site event sales without having first obtained all required
298 municipal approvals, and such retailer or hybrid retailer shall be
299 prohibited from applying for an off-site event permit for a period of one
300 year from the date of such revocation.

301 (c) Prior to submitting an application pursuant to subsection (d) of
302 this section, a retailer or hybrid retailer shall establish written policies,
303 specific to off-site events, for the purpose of preventing (1) diversion and
304 misuse of cannabis, and (2) cannabis sales to underage persons.

305 (d) Each retailer or hybrid retailer seeking a permit under this section
306 shall submit an application to the department in a form and manner
307 prescribed by the commissioner. Such application shall include:

308 (1) The retailer or hybrid retailer's name and address as they appear
309 on the license such retailer or hybrid retailer most recently obtained
310 from the department pursuant to section 21a-420r of the general
311 statutes, as amended by this act, or 21a-420s of the general statutes, as
312 amended by this act, as applicable;

313 (2) The attestation and affirmation required under subsection (b) of
314 this section;

315 (3) For the off-site event that is the subject of such application:

316 (A) The name and address of the person organizing such event;

317 (B) The date, time and location of such event; and

318 (C) A statement, signed by the retailer or hybrid retailer, certifying
319 that:

320 (i) During such event, such retailer or hybrid retailer shall adhere to:

321 (I) Such retailer's or hybrid retailer's written policies for preventing

322 diversion and misuse of cannabis and cannabis sales to underage
323 persons;

324 (II) The prohibition on off-site sales of medical marijuana products;

325 (III) The requirement that at least ninety per cent of the audience at
326 the off-site event is reasonably expected to be twenty-one years of age
327 or older; and

328 (IV) All other security requirements set forth by the department for
329 off-site events based on such retailer's or hybrid retailer's license type;
330 and

331 (ii) The person organizing such event has submitted a notice to the
332 chief elected official of the municipality in which such event will be held
333 disclosing:

334 (I) The information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this
335 subdivision;

336 (II) That the retailer or hybrid retailer intends to sell cannabis to
337 consumers at such event; and

338 (III) That the person organizing such event has received, or will
339 receive prior to engaging in off-site event sales, all approvals required
340 under local zoning regulations; and

341 (4) Any other information the commissioner deems necessary for the
342 purposes of this section.

343 (d) The department shall collect a nonrefundable application fee in
344 the amount of five hundred dollars from each retailer or hybrid retailer
345 that submits an application to the department pursuant to subsection (c)
346 of this section. All application fees collected by the department pursuant
347 to this subsection shall be paid to the State Treasurer and credited to the
348 General Fund.

349 (e) (1) A municipality may, by amendment to such municipality's

350 zoning regulations or local ordinance:

351 (A) Prohibit retailers and hybrid retailers from selling cannabis in the
352 manner described in subsection (a) of this section;

353 (B) Establish reasonable restrictions concerning allowable hours and
354 signage for sales of cannabis under permits issued pursuant to this
355 section; or

356 (C) Establish restrictions on the proximity of sales of cannabis in the
357 manner described in subsection (a) of this section to any of the
358 establishments listed in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 30-46
359 of the general statutes.

360 (2) If a municipality adopts an amendment or ordinance pursuant to
361 subdivision (1) of this subsection, the chief zoning official of such
362 municipality shall, not later than fourteen days after such municipality
363 adopts such amendment or ordinance, submit a report to the
364 department and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
365 in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, disclosing such
366 amendment or ordinance.

367 (3) No municipality may impose a fee for an application filed, or
368 permit issued, pursuant to this section.

369 (f) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
370 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the
371 provisions of this section. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections
372 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, of the general statutes, the commissioner shall,
373 prior to adopting such regulations and in order to effectuate the
374 purposes of RERACA and protect public health and safety, issue
375 policies and procedures to implement the provisions of this section,
376 which policies and procedures shall have the force and effect of law. The
377 commissioner shall, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any
378 such policy or procedure, post such policy or procedure on the
379 department's Internet web site and submit such policy or procedure to
380 the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System. Any

381 such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of
382 either the adoption of such policy or procedure as a final regulation
383 under section 4-172 of the general statutes or June 30, 2027, if such
384 regulations have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review
385 committee for consideration under section 4-170 of the general statutes.
386 Such regulations, policies and procedures shall include, but need not be
387 limited to, provisions concerning (1) secure transportation of products,
388 (2) seed-to-sale tracking requirements, (3) consumer transaction and off-
389 site inventory limits, (4) off-site location security requirements to protect
390 against cannabis diversion and underage persons' access to cannabis,
391 and (5) off-site event advertising restrictions.

392 Sec. 3. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 21a-420b of the general
393 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
394 (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

395 (d) No law enforcement officer employed by an agency that receives
396 state or local government funds shall expend state or local resources,
397 including the officer's time, to effect any arrest or seizure of cannabis, or
398 conduct any investigation, on the sole basis of activity the officer
399 believes to constitute a violation of federal law if the officer has reason
400 to believe that such activity is in compliance with this section and
401 sections 21a-420a, 21a-420c to 21a-420i, inclusive, 21a-420l to 21a-420n,
402 inclusive, 21a-420p to 21a-420t, inclusive, 21a-420v to 21a-421c,
403 inclusive, 21a-421f, 21a-421g, 21a-421j to 21a-421q, inclusive, as
404 amended by this act, 21a-421aa to 21a-421dd, inclusive, 21a-422k and 53-
405 247a and sections 23, 60 and 63 to 65, inclusive, of public act 21-1 of the
406 June special session, [or] chapter 420f or section 2 of this act.

407 (e) An officer may not expend state or local resources, including the
408 officer's time, to provide any information or logistical support to any
409 federal law enforcement authority or prosecuting entity related to
410 activity the officer believes to constitute a violation of federal law if the
411 officer has reason to believe that such activity is in compliance with the
412 provisions of this section and sections 21a-420a, 21a-420c to 21a-420i,
413 inclusive, 21a-420l to 21a-420n, inclusive, 21a-420p to 21a-420t,

414 inclusive, 21a-420v to 21a-421c, inclusive, 21-421f, 21a-421g, 21a-421j to
415 21a-421q, inclusive, as amended by this act, 21a-421aa to 21a-421dd,
416 inclusive, 21a-422k and 53-247a and sections 23, 60 and 63 to 65,
417 inclusive, of public act 21-1 of the June special session, [or] chapter 420f
418 or section 2 of this act.

419 Sec. 4. Subsection (k) of section 21a-420d of the general statutes is
420 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
421 *2023*):

422 (k) The council shall develop criteria for evaluating the ownership
423 and control of any equity joint venture created under section 21a-420m,
424 as amended by this act, 21a-420u, as amended by this act, or section 21a-
425 420j and shall review and approve or deny in writing such equity joint
426 venture prior to such equity joint venture being licensed under section
427 21a-420m, as amended by this act, 21a-420u, as amended by this act, or
428 section 21a-420j. After developing criteria for social equity plans as
429 described in subdivision (5) of subsection (h) of this section, the council
430 shall review and approve or deny in writing any such plan submitted
431 by a cannabis establishment as part of its final license application. The
432 council shall not approve any equity joint venture applicant which
433 shares with an equity joint venture any individual owner who meets the
434 criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(48)]
435 (49) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act.

436 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 21a-420m of the general statutes is
437 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
438 *2023*):

439 (b) The equity joint venture shall be in any cannabis establishment
440 licensed business, other than a cultivator license, provided such equity
441 joint venture is at least fifty per cent owned and controlled by an
442 individual or individuals who meet, or the equity joint venture
443 applicant is an individual who meets, the criteria established in
444 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(48)] (49) of section 21a-420,
445 as amended by this act.

446 Sec. 6. Section 21a-420r of the general statutes is repealed and the
447 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

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

452 (b) A retailer may obtain cannabis from a cultivator, micro-cultivator,
453 producer, product packager, food and beverage manufacturer, product
454 manufacturer or transporter or an undeliverable return from a delivery
455 service. A retailer may sell, transport or transfer cannabis or cannabis
456 products to a delivery service, laboratory or research program. A retailer
457 may sell cannabis to a consumer or research program. A retailer may
458 not conduct sales of medical marijuana products nor offer discounts or
459 other inducements to qualifying patients or caregivers. A retailer shall
460 not gift or transfer cannabis at no cost to a consumer as part of a
461 commercial transaction.

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

469 (d) A retailer may deliver cannabis through a delivery service or by
470 utilizing its own employees, subject to the provisions of subsection (b)
471 of section 21a-420c.

472 (e) A retailer may sell cannabis to consumers under an off-site event
473 permit issued to the retailer pursuant to section 2 of this act. No retailer
474 shall sell cannabis at an off-site event to any individual who is acting in
475 such individual's capacity as a qualifying patient or caregiver.

476 Sec. 7. Section 21a-420s of the general statutes is repealed and the

477 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

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

482 (b) A hybrid retailer may obtain cannabis from a cultivator, micro-
483 cultivator, producer, product packager, food and beverage
484 manufacturer, product manufacturer or transporter. In addition to the
485 activities authorized under section 21a-420t, a hybrid retailer may sell,
486 transport or transfer cannabis to a delivery service, laboratory or
487 research program. A hybrid retailer may sell cannabis products to a
488 consumer or research program. A hybrid retailer shall not gift or
489 transfer cannabis at no cost to a consumer, qualifying patient or
490 caregiver as part of a commercial transaction.

491 (c) In addition to conducting general retail sales, a hybrid retailer may
492 sell cannabis and medical marijuana products, to qualifying patients
493 and caregivers. Any cannabis or medical marijuana products sold to
494 qualifying patients and caregivers shall be dispensed by a licensed
495 pharmacist and shall be recorded in the electronic prescription drug
496 monitoring program, established pursuant to section 21a-254, in real-
497 time or immediately upon completion of the transaction, unless not
498 reasonably feasible for a specific transaction, but in no case longer than
499 one hour after completion of the transaction. Only a licensed pharmacist
500 or dispensary technician may upload or access data in the prescription
501 drug monitoring program.

502 (d) A hybrid retailer shall maintain a licensed pharmacist on premises
503 at all times when the hybrid retail location is open to the public or to
504 qualifying patients and caregivers.

505 (e) The hybrid retailer location shall include a private consultation
506 space for pharmacists to meet with qualifying patients and caregivers.
507 Additionally, the hybrid retailer premises shall accommodate an
508 expedited method of entry that allows for priority entrance into the

509 premises for qualifying patients and caregivers.

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

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

521 (h) A hybrid retailer may not convert its license to a retailer license.
522 To obtain a retailer license, a hybrid retailer shall apply through the
523 lottery application process. A hybrid retailer may convert to a
524 dispensary facility if the hybrid retailer complies with all applicable
525 provisions of chapter 420f, and upon written approval by the
526 department.

527 (i) A hybrid retailer may sell cannabis to consumers under an off-site
528 event permit issued to the hybrid retailer pursuant to section 2 of this
529 act. No hybrid retailer shall sell cannabis at an off-site event to any
530 individual who is acting in such individual's capacity as a qualifying
531 patient or caregiver.

532 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 21a-420u of the general statutes is
533 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
534 *2023*):

535 (b) Any equity joint venture created under this section shall be
536 created for the development of a cannabis establishment, other than a
537 cultivator, provided such equity joint venture is at least fifty per cent
538 owned and controlled by an individual or individuals who meet, or the
539 equity joint venture applicant is an individual who meets, the criteria

540 established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(48)] (49) of
541 section 21a-420, as amended by this act.

542 Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 21a-420y of the general statutes is
543 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
544 *2023*):

545 (b) A product packager may obtain cannabis from a producer,
546 cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer or a
547 product manufacturer utilizing its own employees or a transporter. The
548 product packager may sell, transfer or transport cannabis to and from
549 any cannabis establishment, laboratory for testing or research program,
550 provided the product packager only transports cannabis packaged at its
551 licensed establishment and utilizing its own employees or a transporter.

552 Sec. 10. Section 21a-420z of the general statutes is repealed and the
553 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

554 (a) On and after July 1, 2021, the department may issue or renew a
555 license for a person to be a delivery service or a transporter. No person
556 may act as a delivery service or transporter or represent that such person
557 is a licensed delivery service or transporter unless such person has
558 obtained a license from the department pursuant to this section.

559 (b) Upon application for a delivery service or transporter license, the
560 applicant shall indicate whether the applicant is applying to transport
561 cannabis (1) between cannabis establishments, in which case the
562 applicant shall apply for a transporter license, or (2) from certain
563 cannabis establishments to consumers or qualifying patients and
564 caregivers, or a combination thereof, in which case the applicant shall
565 apply for a delivery service license.

566 (c) A delivery service may (1) deliver cannabis from a micro-
567 cultivator, retailer, or hybrid retailer directly to a consumer, and (2)
568 deliver cannabis and medical marijuana products from a hybrid retailer
569 or dispensary facility directly to a qualifying patient, caregiver, or
570 hospice or other inpatient care facility licensed by the Department of

571 Public Health pursuant to chapter 368v that has protocols for the
572 handling and distribution of cannabis that have been approved by the
573 Department of Consumer Protection. A delivery service may not store
574 or maintain control of cannabis or medical marijuana products for more
575 than twenty-four hours between the point when a consumer, qualifying
576 patient, caregiver or facility places an order, until the time that the
577 cannabis or medical marijuana product is delivered to such consumer,
578 qualifying patient, caregiver or facility.

579 (d) A transporter may deliver cannabis between cannabis
580 establishments, research programs and laboratories and shall not store
581 or maintain control of cannabis for more than twenty-four hours from
582 the time the transporter obtains the cannabis from a cannabis
583 establishment, research program or laboratory until the time such
584 cannabis is delivered to the destination.

585 (e) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
586 chapter 54, to implement the provisions of RERACA. Notwithstanding
587 the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to
588 effectuate the purposes of RERACA and protect public health and
589 safety, prior to adopting such regulations the commissioner shall issue
590 policies and procedures to implement the provisions of this section that
591 shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all
592 policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site, and
593 submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for
594 posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the
595 effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure
596 shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either adoption of such
597 policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or forty-
598 eight months from July 1, 2021, if such final regulations have not been
599 submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for
600 consideration under section 4-170. The commissioner shall issue policies
601 and procedures, and thereafter adopt final regulations, requiring that:
602 (1) The delivery service and transporter meet certain security
603 requirements related to the storage, handling and transport of cannabis,
604 the vehicles employed, the conduct of employees and agents, and the

605 documentation that shall be maintained by the delivery service,
606 transporter and its drivers; (2) a delivery service that delivers cannabis
607 to consumers maintain an online interface that verifies the age of
608 consumers ordering cannabis for delivery and meets certain
609 specifications and data security standards; and (3) a delivery service that
610 delivers cannabis to consumers, qualifying patients or caregivers, and
611 all employees and agents of such licensee, to verify the identity of the
612 qualifying patient, caregiver or consumer and the age of the consumer
613 upon delivery of cannabis to the end consumer, qualifying patient or
614 caregiver, in a manner acceptable to the commissioner. The individual
615 placing the cannabis order shall be the individual accepting delivery of
616 the cannabis except, in the case of a qualifying patient, the individual
617 accepting the delivery may be the caregiver of such qualifying patient.

618 (f) A delivery service shall not gift or transfer cannabis at no cost to a
619 consumer or qualifying patient or caregiver as part of a commercial
620 transaction.

621 (g) A delivery service that employs twelve or more individuals to
622 deliver cannabis pursuant to subsection (c) of this section may only use
623 individuals employed on a full-time basis, not less than thirty-five hours
624 a week, to deliver cannabis pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.
625 Any delivery service employees who deliver cannabis shall be
626 registered with the department, and a delivery service shall not employ
627 more than twenty-five such delivery employees at any given time.

628 (h) No provision of this section shall be construed to excuse any
629 delivery service from the requirement that such delivery service enter
630 into a labor peace agreement with a bona fide labor organization under
631 section 21a-421d, as amended by this act.

632 Sec. 11. Section 21a-421p of the general statutes is repealed and the
633 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

634 (a) For sufficient cause found pursuant to subsection (b) of this
635 section, the commissioner may suspend or revoke a license, permit or
636 registration, issue fines of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars

637 per violation, accept an offer in compromise or refuse to grant [or
638 renew] a license, permit or registration, or renew a license or
639 registration, issued pursuant to RERACA, or place such licensee or
640 registrant on probation, place conditions on such licensee or registrant
641 or take other actions [permitted] authorized by law. Information from
642 inspections and investigations conducted by the department related to
643 administrative complaints or cases shall not be subject to disclosure
644 under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200,
645 except after the department has entered into a settlement agreement, or
646 concluded its investigation or inspection as evidenced by case closure,
647 provided [that] nothing in this section shall prevent the department
648 from sharing information with other state and federal agencies and law
649 enforcement as it relates to investigating violations of law.

650 (b) Any of the following shall constitute sufficient cause for such
651 action by the commissioner, including, but not limited to:

652 (1) Furnishing of false or fraudulent information in any application
653 or failure to comply with representations made in any application,
654 including, but not limited to, medical preservation plans and security
655 requirements;

656 (2) A civil judgment against or disqualifying conviction of a cannabis
657 establishment licensee, backer, key employee or license applicant;

658 (3) Failure to maintain effective controls against diversion, theft or
659 loss of cannabis, cannabis products or other controlled substances;

660 (4) Discipline by, or a pending disciplinary action or an unresolved
661 complaint against a cannabis establishment licensee, registrant or
662 applicant regarding any professional license or registration of any
663 federal, state or local government;

664 (5) Failure to keep accurate records and to account for the cultivation,
665 manufacture, packaging or sale of cannabis;

666 (6) Denial, suspension or revocation of a license or registration, or the

667 denial of a renewal of a license or registration, by any federal, state or
668 local government or a foreign jurisdiction;

669 (7) False, misleading or deceptive representations to the public or the
670 department;

671 (8) Return to regular stock of any cannabis where:

672 (A) The package or container containing the cannabis has been
673 opened, breached, tampered with or otherwise adulterated; or

674 (B) The cannabis has been previously sold to an end user or research
675 program subject;

676 (9) Involvement in a fraudulent or deceitful practice or transaction;

677 (10) Performance of incompetent or negligent work;

678 (11) Failure to maintain the entire cannabis establishment premises
679 or laboratory and contents in a secure, clean, orderly and sanitary
680 condition;

681 (12) [Permitting] Allowing another person to use the licensee's
682 license;

683 (13) Failure to properly register employees or license key employees,
684 or failure to notify the department of a change in key employees or
685 backers;

686 (14) An adverse administrative decision or delinquency assessment
687 against the cannabis establishment from the Department of Revenue
688 Services;

689 (15) Failure to cooperate or give information to the department, local
690 law enforcement authorities or any other enforcement agency upon any
691 matter arising out of conduct in connection with a research program or
692 an event that is the subject of an off-site event permit issued pursuant to
693 section 2 of this act, or at the premises of a cannabis establishment or a
694 laboratory; [or in connection with a research program;]

695 (16) Advertising in a manner prohibited by section 21a-421bb; or

696 (17) Failure to comply with any provision of RERACA, or any policies
697 and procedures issued by the commissioner to implement, or
698 regulations adopted pursuant to, RERACA.

699 (c) Upon refusal to issue [or renew] a license, permit or registration,
700 or renew a license or registration, the commissioner shall notify the
701 applicant of the denial and of the applicant's right to request a hearing
702 within ten days from the date of receipt of the notice of denial. If the
703 applicant requests a hearing within such ten-day period, the
704 commissioner shall give notice of the grounds for the commissioner's
705 refusal and shall conduct a hearing concerning such refusal in
706 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 concerning contested
707 cases. If the commissioner's denial of a license or registration is
708 sustained after such hearing, an applicant may not apply for a new
709 cannabis establishment, laboratory, backer or key employee license, [or]
710 employee registration or off-site event permit for a period of one year
711 after the date on which such denial was sustained.

712 (d) No person whose license or registration has been revoked may
713 apply for a cannabis establishment, backer or key employee license or
714 an employee registration for a period of one year after the date of such
715 revocation.

716 (e) The voluntary surrender of a license, permit or registration, or
717 failure to renew a license or registration, shall not prevent the
718 commissioner from suspending or revoking such license, permit or
719 registration or imposing other penalties permitted by RERACA.

720 Sec. 12. Section 21a-278b of the general statutes is repealed and the
721 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

722 (a) No person may manufacture, distribute, sell, prescribe, dispense,
723 compound, transport with the intent to sell or dispense, possess with
724 the intent to sell or dispense, offer, give or administer to another person
725 cannabis or cannabis products, except as authorized in chapter 420b or

726 420f or sections 21a-420n, 21a-420p, 21a-420r to 21a-420t, inclusive, as
727 amended by this act, [or] 21a-420w to 21a-420z, inclusive, as amended
728 by this act, or section 2 of this act.

729 (b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (c) or (d) of this section, any
730 person eighteen years of age or older who violates subsection (a) of this
731 section (A) for a first offense, shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor,
732 and (B) for any subsequent offense, shall be guilty of a class A
733 misdemeanor.

734 (2) Any person under eighteen years of age who violates subsection
735 (a) of this section shall be adjudicated delinquent pursuant to the
736 provisions of section 46b-120.

737 (c) Any person eighteen years of age or older who violates subsection
738 (a) of this section by manufacturing, distributing, selling, prescribing,
739 compounding, transporting with the intent to sell or dispense,
740 possessing with the intent to sell or dispense, offering, giving or
741 administering to another person less than eight ounces of cannabis plant
742 material, as defined in section 21a-279a, or an equivalent amount of
743 cannabis products or a combination of cannabis and cannabis products,
744 as provided in subsection (i) of section 21a-279a, (1) for a first offense,
745 shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars, and (2) for any
746 subsequent offense, shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

747 (d) Any person eighteen years of age or older who before July 1, 2023,
748 violates subsection (a) of this section by growing up to three mature
749 cannabis plants and three immature cannabis plants in such person's
750 own residence for personal use (1) for a first offense, shall be issued a
751 written warning, (2) for a second offense, shall be fined not more than
752 five hundred dollars, and (3) for any subsequent offense, shall be guilty
753 of a class D misdemeanor. If evidence of a violation of this subsection is
754 found in the course of any law enforcement activity other than
755 investigation of a violation of this subsection or section 21a-278 or 21a-
756 279a, such evidence shall not be admissible in any criminal proceeding.

757 Sec. 13. Section 21a-421d of the general statutes is repealed and the

758 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

759 (a) As used in this section:

760 (1) "Bona fide labor organization" means a labor union that [(A)
761 represents employees in this state with regard to wages, hours and
762 working conditions, (B) whose officers have been elected by a secret
763 ballot or otherwise in a manner consistent with federal law, (C) is free
764 of domination or interference by any employer and has received no
765 improper assistance or support from any employer, and (D)] the Labor
766 Department determines, pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, is
767 actively seeking to represent cannabis workers in the state;

768 (2) "Labor peace agreement" means an agreement between a cannabis
769 establishment and a bona fide labor organization under this section
770 pursuant to which the owners and management of the cannabis
771 establishment agree not to lock out employees and that prohibits the
772 bona fide labor organization from engaging in picketing, work
773 stoppages or boycotts against the cannabis establishment;

774 (3) "Cannabis establishment", "dispensary facility" and "producer"
775 have the same meanings as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by
776 this act; and

777 (4) "Licensee" means a cannabis establishment licensee, dispensary
778 facility or producer.

779 (b) The Labor Department shall identify, and develop a list of, labor
780 unions that are actively seeking to represent cannabis workers in the
781 state. In determining whether a labor union is actively seeking to
782 represent cannabis workers in the state, the Labor Department shall
783 consider the following factors to be indicative, but not determinative, of
784 whether the labor union is actively seeking to represent cannabis
785 workers in the state: (1) The labor union (A) represents employees in
786 this state with regard to wages, hours and working conditions, (B) is free
787 of domination or interference by any employer, (C) has received no
788 improper assistance or support from any employer, (D) has been

789 recognized or certified as the bargaining representative for cannabis
790 employees in the state, (E) has executed one or more current collective
791 bargaining agreements with cannabis employers in the state, (F) has
792 spent resources as part of one or more current and active attempts to
793 organize and represent cannabis workers in the state, (G) has filed the
794 annual report required by 29 USC 431(b) for the three years immediately
795 preceding the Labor Department's consideration of such labor union,
796 (H) has audited financial reports covering the three years immediately
797 preceding the Labor Department's consideration of such labor union, (I)
798 was governed by a written constitution or bylaws for the three years
799 immediately preceding the Labor Department's consideration of such
800 labor union, and (J) is affiliated with regional or national associations of
801 unions, including, but not limited to, central labor councils; and (2) the
802 labor union's officers have been elected by a secret ballot or otherwise
803 in a manner consistent with federal law.

804 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) Any provisional cannabis establishment licensee, dispensary
805 facility or producer shall, as a condition of its final license approval,
806 license conversion or approval for expanded authorization,
807 respectively, enter into a labor peace agreement with a bona fide labor
808 organization. Any such labor peace agreement shall contain a clause
809 that the parties agree that final and binding arbitration by a neutral
810 arbitrator will be the exclusive remedy for any violation of such
811 agreement.

812 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 54, if an arbitrator
813 finds that a licensee failed to comply with an order issued by the
814 arbitrator to correct a failure to abide by such agreement, upon receipt
815 of a written copy of such finding, the ~~[department]~~ Department of
816 Consumer Protection shall suspend the licensee's license without
817 further administrative proceedings or formal hearing.

818 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) A licensee or bona fide labor organization may commence a
819 civil action in the Superior Court in the judicial district where the facility
820 used in the operation of a cannabis establishment is located to enforce
821 the arbitration award or to lift the license suspension. The license shall

822 remain suspended until such time that: (1) [the] The arbitrator notifies,
823 or both of the parties to the arbitration notify, the [department]
824 Department of Consumer Protection that the licensee is in compliance
825 with the arbitration award; (2) both of the parties to the arbitration
826 notify the [department] Department of Consumer Protection that they
827 have satisfactorily resolved their dispute; (3) the court, after hearing,
828 lifts the suspension; or (4) the court, after hearing, orders alternative
829 remedies, which may include, but need not be limited to, ordering the
830 [department] Department of Consumer Protection to revoke the license
831 or ordering the appointment of a receiver to properly dispose of any
832 cannabis inventory. Except as provided in subsection [(e)] (f) of this
833 section, during such time that a license is suspended pursuant to this
834 section, the licensee may engage in conduct necessary to maintain and
835 secure the cannabis inventory, but may not sell, transport or transfer
836 cannabis to another cannabis establishment, consumer or laboratory,
837 unless such sale or transfer is associated with a voluntary surrender of
838 license and a cannabis disposition plan approved by the [commissioner]
839 Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

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

845 Sec. 14. Section 21a-421j of the general statutes is repealed and the
846 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

847 The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter
848 54 to implement the provisions of RERACA. Notwithstanding the
849 requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate
850 the purposes of RERACA and protect public health and safety, prior to
851 adopting such regulations the commissioner shall issue policies and
852 procedures to implement the provisions of RERACA that shall have the
853 force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies and
854 procedures on the department's Internet web site and submit such

855 policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for posting on the
856 eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of
857 any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer
858 be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or
859 procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or forty-eight
860 months from June 22, 2021, if such regulations have not been submitted
861 to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under
862 section 4-170. The commissioner shall issue policies and procedures and
863 thereafter final regulations that include, but are not limited to, the
864 following:

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

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

876 (3) Requiring that, if it is impracticable to clearly demark every
877 standardized serving of cannabis product or to make each standardized
878 serving easily separable in an edible cannabis product or beverage, the
879 product, other than cannabis concentrate or medical marijuana product,
880 shall contain not more than five milligrams of THC per unit of sale;

881 (4) Establishing, in consultation with the Department of Mental
882 Health and Addiction Services, consumer health materials that shall be
883 posted or distributed, as specified by the commissioner, by cannabis
884 establishments to maximize dissemination to cannabis consumers.
885 Consumer health materials may include pamphlets, packaging inserts,
886 signage, online and printed advertisements and advisories and printed

887 health materials;

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

891 (A) [A] Inclusion of universal [symbol] symbols to indicate that
892 cannabis, or a cannabis product that contains cannabis, contains THC
893 and is not legal or safe for individuals younger than twenty-one years
894 of age, and prescribe how such product and product packaging shall
895 utilize and exhibit such [symbol] symbols;

896 (B) A disclosure concerning the length of time it typically takes for
897 the cannabis to affect an individual, including that certain forms of
898 cannabis take longer to have an effect;

899 (C) A notation of the amount of cannabis the cannabis product is
900 considered the equivalent to;

901 (D) A list of ingredients and all additives for cannabis;

902 (E) Child-resistant packaging including requiring that an edible
903 product be individually wrapped;

904 (F) Product tracking information sufficient to determine where and
905 when the cannabis was grown and manufactured such that a product
906 recall could be effectuated;

907 (G) A net weight statement;

908 (H) A recommended use by or expiration date; and

909 (I) Standard and uniform packaging and labeling, including, but not
910 limited to, requirements (i) regarding branding or logos, (ii) that all
911 packaging be opaque, and (iii) that amounts and concentrations of THC
912 and cannabidiol, per serving and per package, be clearly marked on the
913 packaging or label of any cannabis product sold;

914 (6) Establishing laboratory testing standards;

915 (7) Restricting forms of cannabis products and cannabis product
916 delivery systems to ensure consumer safety and deter public health
917 concerns;

918 (8) Prohibiting certain manufacturing methods, or inclusion of
919 additives to cannabis products, including, but not limited to, (A) added
920 flavoring, terpenes or other additives unless approved by the
921 department, or (B) any form of nicotine or other additive containing
922 nicotine;

923 (9) Prohibiting cannabis product types that appeal to children;

924 (10) Establishing physical and cyber security requirements related to
925 build out, monitoring and protocols for cannabis establishments as a
926 requirement for licensure;

927 (11) Placing temporary limits on the sale of cannabis in the adult-use
928 market, if deemed appropriate and necessary by the commissioner, in
929 response to a shortage of cannabis for qualifying patients;

930 (12) Requiring retailers and hybrid retailers to make best efforts to
931 provide access to (A) low-dose THC products, including products that
932 have one milligram and two and a half milligrams of THC per dose, and
933 (B) high-dose CBD products;

934 (13) Requiring producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product
935 manufacturers, [and] food and beverage manufacturers and product
936 packagers to register brand names for cannabis, in accordance with the
937 policies and procedures and subject to the fee set forth in, regulations
938 adopted under chapter 420f;

939 (14) Prohibiting a cannabis establishment from selling, other than the
940 sale of medical marijuana products between cannabis establishments
941 and the sale of cannabis to qualified patients and caregivers, (A)
942 cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material with a total THC
943 concentration greater than thirty per cent on a dry-weight basis, and (B)
944 any cannabis product other than cannabis flower and cannabis plant

945 material with a total THC concentration greater than sixty per cent on a
946 dry-weight basis, except that the provisions of subparagraph (B) of this
947 subdivision shall not apply to the sale of prefilled cartridges for use in
948 an electronic cannabis delivery system, as defined in section 19a-342a
949 and the department may adjust the percentages set forth in
950 subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision in regulations adopted
951 pursuant to this section for purposes of public health or to address
952 market access or shortage. As used in this subdivision, "total THC" has
953 the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240 and "cannabis plant
954 material" means material from the cannabis plant, as defined in section
955 21a-279a; [and]

956 (15) Permitting the outdoor cultivation of cannabis;

957 (16) Prohibiting packaging that is (A) visually similar to any
958 commercially similar product that does not contain cannabis, or (B) used
959 for any good that is marketed to individuals reasonably expected to be
960 younger than twenty-one years of age; and

961 (17) Allowing cannabis packaging to include a picture of the cannabis
962 plant and contain a logo of one cannabis establishment, which logo may
963 be comprised of not more than three colors and provided black and
964 white shall not be considered one of such three colors. Packaging shall
965 be entirely and uniformly one color, and shall not incorporate any
966 information, print, embossing, debossing, graphic or hidden feature,
967 other than any permitted or required label. Notwithstanding any
968 contrary provision of this subdivision, packaging for edible cannabis
969 products shall be entirely and uniformly white, and white and black
970 shall be considered colors for the purposes of edible cannabis product
971 packaging.

972 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) There is established within
973 the Department of Consumer Protection an Office of the Cannabis
974 Ombudsman. Such office shall perform the duties established pursuant
975 to subsection (d) of this section.

976 (b) The director of the office established pursuant to subsection (a) of

977 this section shall be appointed by the Governor, with the approval of the
978 General Assembly. Said director shall be an elector of the state with
979 expertise and experience in the field of cannabis regulation.

980 (c) The person appointed as the director of the office established
981 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall serve for an initial term
982 of two years and may serve until a successor is appointed and confirmed
983 in the manner described in subsection (b) of this section. Such person
984 may be reappointed for succeeding terms. Any vacancy in the position
985 of the director of the office established pursuant to subsection (a) of this
986 section shall be filled in the manner described in subsection (b) of this
987 section.

988 (d) Not later than January 1, 2024, the director of the office established
989 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall, in consultation with the
990 Department of Consumer Protection and Social Equity Council, develop
991 recommendations regarding the duties of such office and director, and
992 shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
993 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
994 having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection disclosing
995 such recommendations. Such joint standing committee shall review
996 such recommendations, may schedule a hearing on such
997 recommendations and recommend legislation necessary to implement
998 such recommendations.

999 Sec. 16. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
1000 study the potential health, safety and financial impact of allowing
1001 individuals who are authorized to cultivate cannabis in their residences
1002 to sell, at retail, such cannabis at events organized, at least in part, to
1003 facilitate such sales. The task force shall (1) examine the impact that such
1004 sales would likely have on this state, including, but not limited to, the
1005 impact that such sales would likely have on residents of this state and
1006 the state's existing medical and recreational cannabis markets, and (2) if
1007 the task force recommends that the state authorize such sales,
1008 recommend any legislation necessary to authorize and regulate such
1009 sales.

- 1010 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:
- 1011 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 1012 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 1013 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
1014 Representatives;
- 1015 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 1016 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
1017 Representatives;
- 1018 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
- 1019 (7) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's
1020 designee;
- 1021 (8) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
1022 designee;
- 1023 (9) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or
1024 the commissioner's designee; and
- 1025 (10) Two appointed by the Governor.
- 1026 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
1027 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
1028 of the General Assembly.
- 1029 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
1030 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
1031 be filled by the appointing authority.
- 1032 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
1033 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
1034 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
1035 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty

1036 days after the effective date of this section.

1037 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
 1038 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer
 1039 protection shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

1040 (g) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report
 1041 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
 1042 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
 1043 consumer protection, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
 1044 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
 1045 submits such report or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	21a-420
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	21a-420b(d) and (e)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	21a-420d(k)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	21a-420m(b)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	21a-420r
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	21a-420s
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	21a-420u(b)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	21a-420y(b)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	21a-420z
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	21a-421p
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	21a-278b
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	21a-421d
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	21a-421j
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To: (1) Define "edible cannabis product"; (2) establish off-site event permits for retailers and hybrid retailers of adult-use cannabis; (3) redefine "bona fide labor organization"; (4) transfer certain duties concerning labor peace agreements to the Labor Department; (5) require the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to adopt certain regulations concerning cannabis labeling and packaging; (6) expand the permitted

activities of product packagers; (7) provide that a delivery service that employs twelve or more individuals to deliver cannabis may only use individuals employed on a full-time basis to deliver cannabis; (8) establish an Office of the Cannabis Ombudsman; and (9) establish a task force to study the potential impact of authorizing individuals who are authorized to cultivate cannabis in their residences to sell, at retail, such cannabis at events organized, at least in part, to facilitate such sales.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]