



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 618**

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6855

*House of Representatives, April 9, 2025*

The Committee on General Law reported through REP. LEMAR of the 96th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING DRUG CONTROL AND CANNABIS, HEMP AND INFUSED BEVERAGE REGULATION.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this  
2 section:

3 (1) "Cannabis establishment" has the same meaning as provided in  
4 section 21a-420 of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

5 (2) "Container" (A) means an object that is offered, intended for sale  
6 or sold to a consumer and directly contains hemp flower, and (B) does  
7 not include an object or packaging that indirectly contains, or contains  
8 in bulk for transportation purposes, hemp flower;

9 (3) "Hemp flower" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-  
10 426 of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

11 (4) "Moderate-THC hemp product vendor" has the same meaning as  
12 provided in section 21a-426 of the general statutes, as amended by this  
13 act; and

14 (5) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420 of  
15 the general statutes, as amended by this act.

16 (b) (1) Any person who is not a moderate-THC hemp product vendor  
17 or a licensed cannabis establishment may sell hemp flower, provided  
18 such person exclusively sells hemp flower through (A) a direct, in-  
19 person exchange on commercial premises that (i) requires such person's  
20 assistance, or the assistance of such person's agent or employee, to  
21 access hemp flower, and (ii) maintains all hemp flower (I) behind a sales  
22 counter that is inaccessible to consumers, or (II) in a locked container, or  
23 (B) delivery, including, but not limited to, delivery made by way of a  
24 transaction conducted on an Internet web site or by mail order.

25 (2) Any person who sells any hemp flower pursuant to subdivision  
26 (1) of this subsection shall ensure that the age of the individual who  
27 purchases and receives such hemp flower is verified, prior to purchase  
28 and delivery, with a valid government-issued driver's license or identity  
29 card to establish that such individual is twenty-one years of age or older.

30 Sec. 2. Section 20-627 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
31 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

32 (a) As used in sections 20-627 to 20-630, inclusive, as amended by this  
33 act, "nonresident pharmacy" means any pharmacy located outside this  
34 state that ships, mails or delivers, in any manner, legend devices or  
35 legend drugs into this state pursuant to a prescription order.

36 (b) A nonresident pharmacy shall be registered with the department,  
37 upon approval of the commission, and shall:

38 (1) Disclose annually in a report to the commission the location,  
39 names and titles of all principal corporate officers, if applicable, and all  
40 pharmacists who are dispensing drugs or devices to residents of this  
41 state;

42 (2) [A nonresident pharmacy shall file] File a report within ten days  
43 after any change of name, ownership, management, officers or directors.  
44 Such report shall be accompanied by the filing fee set forth in section 20-  
45 601. Any nonresident pharmacy that fails to give notice as required  
46 pursuant to this subdivision within ten days after the change shall pay  
47 the late fee set forth in section 20-601;

48 (3) Comply with all lawful directions and requests for information  
49 from the regulatory or licensing agency of the state in which it is licensed  
50 as well as comply with all requests for information made by the  
51 commission or department pursuant to this section;

52 (4) Disclose to the department whether the nonresident pharmacy is  
53 dispensing sterile pharmaceuticals, as defined in section 20-633b, as  
54 amended by this act, within this state. If any such dispensed sterile  
55 pharmaceutical is not patient-specific, the nonresident pharmacy shall  
56 submit a copy of the manufacturing license or registration issued by the  
57 regulatory or licensing agency of the state in which it is licensed, and a  
58 copy of any registration issued by the federal Food and Drug  
59 Administration to the department;

60 (5) Maintain at all times, a valid unexpired license, permit or  
61 registration to conduct such pharmacy in compliance with the laws of  
62 the state in which the nonresident pharmacy is located;

63 (6) Before receiving a certificate of registration from the department,  
64 submit a copy of the most recent inspection report resulting from an  
65 inspection conducted by the regulatory or licensing agency of the state  
66 in which the nonresident pharmacy is located. If the nonresident  
67 pharmacy is delivering sterile compounded products within this state,  
68 such inspection report shall include a section based on standards  
69 required in the most recent United States Pharmacopeia, Chapter 797,  
70 as amended from time to time. If the state in which the nonresident  
71 pharmacy is located does not conduct inspections based on standards  
72 required in the most recent United States Pharmacopeia, Chapter 797,  
73 as amended from time to time, such nonresident pharmacy shall  
74 provide proof to the department that it is in compliance with such

75 standards;

76 (7) [A nonresident pharmacy shall provide] Provide a toll-free  
77 telephone number to facilitate communication between patients in this  
78 state and a pharmacist at such nonresident pharmacy who has access to  
79 the patient's records at all times. Such toll-free telephone number shall  
80 be disclosed on a label affixed to each container of drugs dispensed to  
81 patients in this state;

82 (8) Notify the department if the nonresident pharmacy has had any  
83 disciplinary action or written advisement or warning by any federal or  
84 state regulatory agency or any accreditation body not later than ten  
85 business days after being notified of such action, advisement or  
86 warning; and

87 (9) Provide to the department the names and addresses of all  
88 residents of this state to whom legend devices or legend drugs have  
89 been delivered, not later than twenty-four hours after the nonresident  
90 pharmacy initiates a recall of any legend devices or legend drugs.

91 (c) If a nonresident pharmacy that is registered with the department  
92 under this section sells, delivers or offers sterile compounded products  
93 in this state, such nonresident pharmacy shall submit to the department  
94 inspection reports, as provided in section 20-633b, as amended by this  
95 act, from a government agency or third-party entity with expertise in  
96 sterile compounding evidencing that such nonresident pharmacy's  
97 program, processes and facilities comply with the standards required in  
98 the most recent United States Pharmacopeia, Chapter 797, as amended  
99 from time to time.

100 Sec. 3. Subsection (j) of section 20-633b of the general statutes is  
101 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
102 *1, 2026*):

103 (j) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (b)  
104 of this section, a sterile compounding pharmacy that is a nonresident  
105 pharmacy shall [provide] submit to the Department of Consumer

106 Protection [proof that such nonresident pharmacy has passed an  
107 inspection in such nonresident pharmacy's home state, based on the  
108 USP chapters] an inspection report from a government agency with  
109 regulatory oversight over such nonresident pharmacy or from a third-  
110 party entity with expertise in sterile compounding. Such report shall  
111 demonstrate that such nonresident pharmacy is in compliance with the  
112 standards required in the most recent United States Pharmacopeia,  
113 Chapter 797, as amended from time to time. Such nonresident pharmacy  
114 shall submit to the [Department of Consumer Protection] department a  
115 copy of the most recent inspection report with such nonresident  
116 pharmacy's initial nonresident pharmacy application, [and] which  
117 inspection report shall be dated by the inspector and evidence that the  
118 inspection was performed during the six-month period immediately  
119 preceding the submission date of such initial application. Not later than  
120 June thirtieth of each even-numbered calendar year following such  
121 initial application, such nonresident pharmacy shall submit to the  
122 department a [copy of such nonresident pharmacy's most recent] new  
123 inspection report [every two years thereafter. If the state in which such  
124 nonresident pharmacy is located does not conduct inspections based on  
125 standards required in the USP chapters, such nonresident pharmacy  
126 shall provide satisfactory proof to the department that such nonresident  
127 pharmacy is in compliance with the standards required in the USP  
128 chapters] demonstrating that such nonresident pharmacy remains in  
129 compliance with the standards required in the most recent United States  
130 Pharmacopeia, Chapter 797, as amended from time to time, which  
131 inspection report shall be dated by the inspector and indicate that the  
132 inspection was performed not earlier than January first of such even-  
133 numbered calendar year. Notwithstanding the provisions of this  
134 subsection, a sterile compounding pharmacy that is a nonresident  
135 pharmacy shall not be required to submit more than one inspection  
136 report during any calendar year after the nonresident pharmacy is  
137 issued an initial registration.

138 Sec. 4. Section 21a-243 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
139 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

140 (a) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt  
141 regulations for the efficient enforcement and operation of sections 21a-  
142 244 to 21a-282, inclusive.

143 (b) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may, so far as may be  
144 consistent with sections 21a-244 to 21a-282, inclusive, adopt the  
145 regulations existing under the federal Controlled Substances Act and  
146 pertinent regulations existing under the federal food and drug laws and  
147 conform regulations adopted hereunder with those existing under the  
148 federal Controlled Substances Act and federal food and drug laws.

149 (c) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, acting upon the  
150 advice of the Commission of Pharmacy, may by regulation designate,  
151 after investigation, as a controlled substance, a substance or chemical  
152 composition containing any quantity of a substance which has been  
153 found to have a stimulant, depressant or hallucinogenic effect upon the  
154 higher functions of the central nervous system and having a tendency  
155 to promote abuse or physiological or psychological dependence or both.  
156 Such substances are classifiable as amphetamine-type, barbiturate-type,  
157 cannabis-type, cocaine-type, hallucinogenic, morphine-type and other  
158 stimulant and depressant substances, and specifically exclude alcohol,  
159 caffeine and nicotine. Substances which are designated as controlled  
160 substances shall be classified in schedules I to V by regulations adopted  
161 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

162 (d) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may by regulation  
163 change the schedule in which a substance classified as a controlled  
164 substance in schedules I to V of the controlled substance scheduling  
165 regulations is placed. On or before December 15, 1986, and annually  
166 thereafter, the commissioner shall submit a list of all such schedule  
167 changes to the chairmen and ranking members of the joint standing  
168 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
169 relating to public health.

170 (e) [Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (d),  
171 inclusive, of this section, not later than January 1, 2013, the  
172 Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall submit amendments to

173 sections 21a-243-7 and 21a-243-8 of the regulations of Connecticut state  
174 agencies to the standing legislative regulation review committee to  
175 reclassify] The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall classify  
176 marijuana as a controlled substance in schedule II under the Connecticut  
177 controlled substance scheduling regulations, except that for any  
178 marijuana product that has been approved by the federal Food and  
179 Drug Administration or successor agency to have a medical use and that  
180 is reclassified in any schedule of controlled substances or unscheduled  
181 by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or successor agency,  
182 the commissioner shall adopt the schedule designated by the Drug  
183 Enforcement Administration or successor agency. In the event that  
184 marijuana is reclassified as a controlled substance in schedule III, IV or  
185 V of the federal Controlled Substances Act, or is unscheduled by the  
186 federal Drug Enforcement Administration or successor agency, the  
187 commissioner shall adopt the schedule designated by the federal Drug  
188 Enforcement Administration or successor agency.

189 (f) A new or amended regulation under this chapter shall be adopted  
190 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

191 (g) In the event of any inconsistency between the contents of  
192 schedules I, II, III, IV and V of the controlled substance scheduling  
193 regulations and schedules I, II, III, IV and V of the federal Controlled  
194 Substances Act, as amended, the provisions of the federal act shall  
195 prevail, except (1) when the provisions of the Connecticut controlled  
196 substance scheduling regulations place a controlled substance in a  
197 schedule with a higher numerical designation, schedule I being the  
198 highest designation, or (2) as provided in subsection (e) of this section.

199 (h) When a drug that is not a controlled substance in schedule I, II,  
200 III, IV or V, as designated in the Connecticut controlled substance  
201 scheduling regulations, is designated to be a controlled substance under  
202 the federal Controlled Substances Act, such drug shall be considered to  
203 be controlled at the state level in the same numerical schedule from the  
204 effective date of the federal classification. Nothing in this section shall  
205 prevent the Commissioner of Consumer Protection from designating a

206 controlled substance differently in the Connecticut controlled substance  
207 scheduling regulations than such controlled substance is designated in  
208 the federal Controlled Substances Act, as amended from time to time.

209 (i) (1) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall, by regulation  
210 adopted pursuant to this section, designate the following substances, by  
211 whatever official, common, usual, chemical or trade name designation,  
212 as controlled substances and classify each such substance in the  
213 appropriate schedule:

214 [(1)] (A) 1-pentyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole (JWH-018);

215 [(2)] (B) 1-butyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole (JWH-073);

216 [(3)] (C) 1-[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole (JWH-  
217 200);

218 [(4)] (D) 5-(1,1-dimethylheptyl)-2-[(1R,3S)-3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-  
219 phenol (CP-47,497);

220 [(5)] (E) 5-(1,1-dimethyloctyl)-2-[(1R,3S)-3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-  
221 phenol (cannabicyclohexanol; CP-47,497 C8 homologue);

222 [(6)] (F) Salvia divinorum; and

223 [(7)] (G) Salvinorum A.

224 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,  
225 the commissioner shall, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,  
226 amend the regulations adopted pursuant to subdivision (1) of this  
227 subsection to designate the following substances, by whatever official,  
228 common, usual, chemical or trade name designation, as controlled  
229 substances and classify each such substance in the appropriate schedule:

230 (A) 7-hydroxymitragynine;

231 (B) Bromazolam;

232 (C) Flubromazolam;

233 (D) Mitragyna speciosa (kratom), including its leaves, stem and any  
234 extracts;

235 (E) Nitazenes, including, but not limited to, isotonitazene;

236 (F) Tianeptine; and

237 (G) Phenibut.

238 (j) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,  
239 the Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall designate the following  
240 substances, by whatever official, common, usual, chemical or trade  
241 name designation, as controlled substances in schedule I of the  
242 controlled substances scheduling regulations:

243 (1) Mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone);

244 (2) Synthetic cannabinoids; and

245 (3) MDPV (3,4-methylenedioxypropylone).

246 Sec. 5. Section 21a-408c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
247 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

248 (a) (1) A physician, physician assistant or advanced practice  
249 registered nurse may issue a written certification to a qualifying patient  
250 that authorizes the palliative use of marijuana by the qualifying patient.  
251 Such written certification shall be in the form prescribed by the  
252 Department of Consumer Protection and shall include a statement  
253 signed and dated by the qualifying patient's physician, physician  
254 assistant or advanced practice registered nurse stating that, in such  
255 physician's, physician assistant's or advanced practice registered nurse's  
256 professional opinion, (A) the qualifying patient has a debilitating  
257 medical condition, and (B) the potential benefits of the palliative use of  
258 marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks of such use to the  
259 qualifying patient.

260 [(b) Any] (2) Except as provided in subdivision (6) of this subsection,  
261 any written certification [for the palliative use of marijuana] issued by a

262 physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse  
263 [under subsection (a) of this section] pursuant to subdivision (1) of this  
264 subsection shall be valid for a period not to exceed one of the following  
265 durations, as determined by the physician, physician assistant or  
266 advanced practice registered nurse and beginning on the date on which  
267 such written certification is signed and dated by the physician,  
268 physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse: (A) Six  
269 months; (B) one year; [from the date such written certification is signed  
270 and dated by the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice  
271 registered nurse. Not] (C) eighteen months; or (D) two years.

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

280 [(c)] (4) A physician, physician assistant or advanced practice  
281 registered nurse shall not be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized  
282 in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil  
283 penalty, or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to,  
284 being subject to any disciplinary action by the Connecticut Medical  
285 Examining Board, the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing  
286 or other professional licensing board, for providing a written  
287 certification [for the palliative use of marijuana] under subdivision (1)  
288 of subsection (a) of section 21a-408a if:

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

292 [(2)] (B) The physician, physician assistant or advanced practice  
293 registered nurse has explained the potential risks and benefits of the  
294 palliative use of marijuana to the qualifying patient and, if the

295 qualifying patient lacks legal capacity, to a parent, guardian or person  
296 having legal custody of the qualifying patient, to the qualifying patient's  
297 caregiver or to a person legally authorized to make medical decisions  
298 on behalf of the qualifying patient;

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

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

310 [(d)] (5) A physician assistant or nurse shall not be subject to arrest or  
311 prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to,  
312 being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege,  
313 including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by  
314 the Connecticut Medical Examining Board, Board of Examiners for  
315 Nursing or other professional licensing board, for administering  
316 marijuana to a qualifying patient or research program subject in a  
317 hospital or health care facility licensed by the Department of Public  
318 Health.

319 (6) A licensed dispensary, acting in the course of the licensed  
320 dispensary's employment on the premises of the dispensary facility or  
321 hybrid retailer that employs such licensed dispensary, may grant a  
322 temporary extension of a written certification issued by a physician,  
323 physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse pursuant to  
324 subdivision (1) of this subsection for a period not to exceed ninety  
325 consecutive days following expiration of such written certification.

326 (b) (1) A licensed dispensary may issue a temporary written

327 certification to an individual that authorizes the individual to engage in  
328 the palliative use of marijuana as a qualifying patient for a period not to  
329 exceed ninety consecutive days, provided such licensed dispensary has:

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

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

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

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

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

357 (4) A licensed dispensary that issues a temporary written certification

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

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

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

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

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

391 [(e)] (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, sections 21a-  
392 408 to 21a-408b, inclusive, and sections 21a-408d to 21a-408o, inclusive,  
393 a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse shall not  
394 issue a written certification to a qualifying patient, and a licensed  
395 dispensary shall not issue a temporary written certification to an  
396 individual, when the qualifying patient's or individual's debilitating  
397 medical condition is glaucoma.

398 [(f)] (d) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any  
399 regulation of Connecticut state agencies concerning the certification of  
400 qualifying patients through telehealth services, a physician, physician  
401 assistant or advanced practice registered nurse may issue a written  
402 certification to a qualifying patient and provide any follow-up care  
403 utilizing telehealth services, provided all other requirements for issuing  
404 such written certification to the qualifying patient, including, but not  
405 limited to, all recordkeeping requirements, are satisfied.

406 Sec. 6. Subdivision (1) of section 21a-420 of the general statutes is  
407 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
408 *2025*):

409 (1) "Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis  
410 Act" or "RERACA" means this section, sections 2-56j, 7-294kk, 7-294ll,  
411 12-330ll to 12-330nn, inclusive, 14-227p, 21a-278b, 21a-278c, 21a-279c,  
412 21a-279d, 21a-420a to 21a-420j, inclusive, as amended by this act, 21a-  
413 420l to 21a-421r, inclusive, 21a-421aa to 21a-421ff, inclusive, 21a-421aaa  
414 to 21a-421hhh, inclusive, 21a-422 to 21a-422c, inclusive, 21a-422e to 21a-  
415 422g, inclusive, 21a-422j to 21a-422s, inclusive, 22-61n, 23-4b, 47a-9a, 53-  
416 247a, 53a-213a, 53a-213b, 54-33p, 54-56q, 54-56r, 54-125k and 54-142u,  
417 sections 23, 60, 63 to 65, inclusive, 124, 144 and 165 of public act 21-1 of  
418 the June special session, and the amendments in public act 21-1 of the  
419 June special session to sections 7-148, 10-221, 12-30a, 12-35b, 12-412, 12-  
420 650, 12-704d, 14-44k, 14-111e, 14-227a to 14-227c, inclusive, 14-227j, 15-  
421 140q, 15-140r, 18-100h, 19a-342, 19a-342a, 21a-267, 21a-277, 21a-279, 21a-  
422 279a, 21a-408 to 21a-408f, inclusive, 21a-408h to 21a-408p, inclusive, 21a-  
423 408r to 21a-408w, inclusive, 21a-420aa, 21a-421s, 30-89a, 31-40q, 32-39,

424 46b-120, 51-164n, 53-394, 53a-39c, 54-1m, 54-33g, 54-41b, 54-56e, 54-56g,  
425 54-56i, 54-56k, 54-56n, 54-63d, 54-66a and 54-142e, [section 20 of public  
426 act 23-79] sections 8 to 10, inclusive, of this act and section 22 of this act;

427 Sec. 7. Subdivision (2) of section 21a-420 of the general statutes is  
428 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
429 *passage*):

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

447 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:

448 (1) "Court appointee" (A) means a person appointed or designated as  
449 part of a court supervised proceeding to exercise court oversight with  
450 respect to the property, assets, management or operations of a cannabis  
451 establishment, and (B) includes, but is not limited to, a receiver,  
452 custodian, guardian or trustee or the executor or administrator of an  
453 estate; and

454 (2) "Court supervised proceeding" means a proceeding in which a  
455 court of competent jurisdiction appoints or designates a court appointee

456 to exercise court oversight with respect to the property, assets,  
457 management or operations of a cannabis establishment.

458 (b) (1) The Department of Consumer Protection may, upon receipt of  
459 a complete application and payment of the fee required under  
460 subsection (c) of this section, issue a temporary cannabis operator  
461 license to a court appointee to operate a cannabis establishment for a  
462 period (A) not to exceed sixty days, or (B) longer than sixty days,  
463 provided the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, in the  
464 commissioner's sole discretion, deems such longer period reasonably  
465 necessary to allow for the orderly disposition of (i) the cannabis  
466 establishment in the court supervised proceeding, or (ii) any  
467 delinquencies or deficiencies identified by the court.

468 (2) The department may recommend that a person be appointed or  
469 designated as the court appointee as part of any court supervised  
470 proceeding before any court of competent jurisdiction in this state.

471 (3) Each court appointee who is licensed as a temporary cannabis  
472 operator under this section shall comply with all applicable provisions  
473 of the general statutes and all applicable regulations, policies and  
474 procedures adopted or promulgated thereunder.

475 (c) (1) A court appointee shall submit to the department, in a form  
476 and manner prescribed by the commissioner, an application for a  
477 temporary cannabis operator license. Such application shall include, but  
478 need not be limited to:

479 (A) The contact information for such court appointee;

480 (B) Proof that such court appointee has been appointed or designated  
481 to exercise court oversight with respect to the property, assets,  
482 management or operations of the relevant cannabis establishment;

483 (C) The requested duration of the temporary cannabis operator  
484 license; and

485 (D) A summary of the circumstances necessitating such application.

486 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, no court  
487 appointee who applies for a temporary cannabis operator license  
488 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be required to submit  
489 to or pass a criminal history records check or financial history check.

490 (3) Each application submitted to the department pursuant to  
491 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be accompanied by a  
492 nonrefundable application fee in the amount of five hundred dollars.  
493 All application fees collected by the department under this subdivision  
494 shall be paid to the State Treasurer and credited to the General Fund.

495 (d) A court appointee may submit to the department, in a form and  
496 manner prescribed by the commissioner, a request to extend the term of  
497 a temporary cannabis operator license issued pursuant to this section.  
498 The department may grant an extension request submitted pursuant to  
499 this subsection if the commissioner determines, in the commissioner's  
500 discretion, that such extension is reasonably necessary to allow for  
501 resolution of the court supervised proceeding. If such an extension is  
502 granted, it shall be so granted in a form and manner prescribed by the  
503 commissioner.

504 (e) The commissioner may refuse to issue or extend, or may revoke,  
505 a temporary cannabis operator license issued pursuant to this section:

506 (1) If the court appointee does not propose to begin operating the  
507 cannabis establishment immediately upon issuance of the temporary  
508 cannabis operator license, or does not begin operating the cannabis  
509 establishment immediately upon issuance of such license, unless the  
510 commissioner, in the commissioner's discretion and in writing, waives  
511 such requirement and extends the period during which the court  
512 appointee shall begin operating such cannabis establishment;

513 (2) For sufficient cause, as set forth in subsection (b) of section 21a-  
514 421p of the general statutes;

515 (3) If the court appointee operates the cannabis establishment in  
516 violation of any applicable provision of the general statutes or any

517 regulation, policy or procedure adopted or promulgated thereunder; or

518 (4) If the term of such temporary cannabis operator license has  
519 expired.

520 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Department of Consumer  
521 Protection shall develop standardized signage which shall include a  
522 quick response code or comparable electronic identifier that will enable  
523 any person using such code or identifier to determine whether the  
524 cannabis establishment displaying such signage holds an active  
525 cannabis establishment license issued by the department.

526 (b) Each cannabis establishment shall display the standardized  
527 signage developed by the department pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
528 section in a form and manner prescribed by the department. No  
529 cannabis establishment shall display such signage in any other form or  
530 manner.

531 (c) No person or establishment other than a cannabis establishment  
532 shall display the standardized signage developed by the department  
533 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or any substantially similar  
534 signage, that incorrectly indicates that such person or establishment  
535 holds an active cannabis establishment license issued by the  
536 department.

537 (d) A violation of subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall be deemed  
538 an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-  
539 110b of the general statutes. A cannabis establishment that violates the  
540 provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall be subject to additional  
541 enforcement action pursuant to section 21a-421p of the general statutes.

542 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) If a cannabis establishment  
543 elects not to renew its cannabis establishment license, the cannabis  
544 establishment shall submit a nonrenewal notice to the Department of  
545 Consumer Protection, in a form and manner prescribed by the  
546 Commissioner of Consumer Protection, for the purpose of coordinating  
547 efforts to dispose of any cannabis that may be in the possession of such

548 cannabis establishment upon expiration of such license. The cannabis  
549 establishment shall submit such nonrenewal notice to the department  
550 not more than thirty days prior to the expiration date of such license.

551 (b) No holder of a lapsed cannabis establishment license shall (1)  
552 engage in any activity for which an active cannabis establishment  
553 license is required, or (2) possess any cannabis on the premises of the  
554 lapsed cannabis establishment.

555 (c) (1) If the Department of Consumer Protection does not receive a  
556 complete license renewal application from a cannabis establishment on  
557 or before the expiration date of the cannabis establishment's license, the  
558 department may accept a license reinstatement application from the  
559 lapsed cannabis establishment during the ninety-day period following  
560 such expiration date. If the department accepts a reinstatement  
561 application during such ninety-day period, the applicant shall (A) pay  
562 to the department (i) the current year's license renewal fee, and (ii) a late  
563 fee equal to ten per cent of such license renewal fee, and (B) submit to  
564 the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner  
565 of Consumer Protection, a statement signed by the applicant attesting  
566 that the applicant did not engage in any activity in this state for which  
567 an active cannabis establishment license is required while such  
568 applicant's license was lapsed.

569 (2) The department may, in the department's discretion, reinstate the  
570 lapsed cannabis establishment license for an applicant that has satisfied  
571 the requirements established in subdivision (1) of this subsection. If the  
572 reinstated cannabis establishment license was issued to a social equity  
573 applicant, the period during which such license was lapsed shall not be  
574 counted toward the time the applicant was licensed for the purposes of  
575 the ownership and control requirements established in sections 21a-  
576 420h of the general statutes, 21a-420j of the general statutes, as amended  
577 by this act, 21a-420m of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and  
578 21a-420u of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

579 Sec. 11. Subsection (k) of section 21a-420g of the general statutes is  
580 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

581 2025):

582 (k) Final license applications shall be submitted on a form and in a  
583 manner approved by the commissioner and shall include, but not be  
584 limited to, the information set forth in this section, as well as evidence  
585 of the following:

586 (1) A contract with an entity providing an approved electronic  
587 tracking system as set forth in section 21a-421n;

588 (2) A right to occupy the location at which the cannabis establishment  
589 operation will be located, as evidenced by a certificate of occupancy or  
590 temporary certificate of occupancy issued by, or a substantively similar  
591 written approval obtained from, the local building official verifying that  
592 the premises to be occupied for the cannabis establishment operation is  
593 substantially complete;

594 (3) Any necessary local zoning approval for the cannabis  
595 establishment operation;

596 (4) A labor peace agreement complying with section 21a-421d has  
597 been entered into between the cannabis establishment and a bona fide  
598 labor organization, as defined in section 21a-421d;

599 (5) A certification by the applicant that a project labor agreement  
600 complying with section 21a-421e will be entered into by the cannabis  
601 establishment prior to construction of any facility to be used in the  
602 operation of a cannabis establishment;

603 (6) A social equity plan approved by the Social Equity Council;

604 (7) A workforce development plan approved by the Social Equity  
605 Council;

606 (8) Written policies for preventing diversion and misuse of cannabis  
607 and sales to underage persons; and

608 (9) All other security requirements pertaining to the premises, as set  
609 forth by the department based on the specific license type.

610 Sec. 12. Subsection (e) of section 21a-420p of the general statutes is  
611 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
612 *passage*):

613 (e) A micro-cultivator may sell, transfer or transport its cannabis to a  
614 [dispensary facility, hybrid retailer, retailer, delivery service, food and  
615 beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer,] cannabis  
616 establishment, cannabis testing laboratory or research program,  
617 [cannabis testing laboratory or product packager,] provided the  
618 cannabis is cultivated, grown and propagated at the micro-cultivator's  
619 licensed establishment and transported utilizing the micro-cultivator's  
620 own employees or a transporter. A micro-cultivator shall not gift or  
621 transfer cannabis or cannabis products at no cost to a consumer as part  
622 of a commercial transaction.

623 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 21a-420r of the general statutes is  
624 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
625 *passage*):

626 (b) A retailer may obtain cannabis from a cultivator, micro-cultivator,  
627 producer, product packager, food and beverage manufacturer, product  
628 manufacturer or transporter or an undeliverable return from a delivery  
629 service. A retailer may sell, transport or transfer cannabis or cannabis  
630 products to a [delivery service] cannabis establishment, cannabis testing  
631 laboratory or research program. A retailer may sell cannabis to a  
632 consumer or research program. A retailer may not conduct sales of  
633 medical marijuana products nor offer discounts or other inducements to  
634 qualifying patients or caregivers. A retailer shall not gift or transfer  
635 cannabis at no cost to a consumer as part of a commercial transaction.

636 Sec. 14. Subsection (b) of section 21a-420s of the general statutes is  
637 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
638 *passage*):

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

642 activities authorized under section 21a-420t, a hybrid retailer may sell,  
643 transport or transfer cannabis to a [delivery service] cannabis  
644 establishment, cannabis testing laboratory or research program. A  
645 hybrid retailer may sell cannabis products to a consumer or research  
646 program. A hybrid retailer shall not gift or transfer cannabis at no cost  
647 to a consumer, qualifying patient or caregiver as part of a commercial  
648 transaction.

649 Sec. 15. Subsections (e) and (f) of section 21a-420j of the general  
650 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
651 (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

652 [(e) Equity joint ventures that are retailers or hybrid retailers that  
653 share a common cultivator backer or owner shall not be located within  
654 twenty miles of each other.]

655 [(f)] (e) An equity joint venture applicant shall pay fifty per cent of  
656 the amount of any applicable fee specified in subsection (c) of section  
657 21a-420e for the first three renewal cycles of the applicable cannabis  
658 establishment license applied for, and shall pay the full amount of such  
659 fee thereafter.

660 Sec. 16. Subsections (f) to (i), inclusive, of section 21a-420m of the  
661 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
662 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

663 [(f) Equity joint ventures that are retailers or hybrid retailers that  
664 share a common producer backer or owner shall not be located within  
665 twenty miles of each other.]

666 [(g)] (f) If a producer has paid a reduced conversion fee, as described  
667 in subsection (b) of section 21a-420l, and subsequently did not create  
668 two equity joint ventures under this section that, not later than fourteen  
669 months after the Department of Consumer Protection approved the  
670 producer's license expansion application under section 21a-420l, each  
671 received a final license from the department, the producer shall be liable  
672 for the full conversion fee of three million dollars established in section

673 21a-420l minus such paid reduced conversion fee.

674 [(h)] (g) No producer that receives license expansion authorization  
675 under section 21a-420l shall create more than two equity joint ventures.  
676 No such producer shall apply for, or create, any additional equity joint  
677 venture if, on July 1, 2021, such producer has created at least two equity  
678 joint ventures that have each received a provisional license.

679 [(i)] (h) An equity joint venture applicant shall pay fifty per cent of  
680 the amount of any applicable fee specified in subsection (c) of section  
681 21a-420e for the first three renewal cycles of the applicable cannabis  
682 establishment license applied for, and shall pay the full amount of such  
683 fee thereafter.

684 Sec. 17. Subsections (f) to (i), inclusive, of section 21a-420u of the  
685 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
686 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

687 [(f) Equity joint ventures that are retailers or hybrid retailers that  
688 share a common dispensary facility backer or owner, or hybrid retailer  
689 backer or owner, shall not be located within twenty miles of each other.]

690 [(g)] (f) If a dispensary facility has paid the reduced conversion fee,  
691 in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, and did not  
692 subsequently create one equity joint venture under this section that, not  
693 later than fourteen months after the Department of Consumer  
694 Protection approved the dispensary facility's license conversion  
695 application under section 21a-420t, receives a final license from the  
696 department, the dispensary facility shall be liable for the full conversion  
697 fee of one million dollars established in section 21a-420e minus such  
698 paid reduced conversion fee.

699 [(h)] (g) No dispensary facility that receives approval to convert the  
700 dispensary facility's license to a hybrid-retailer license under section  
701 21a-420t shall create more than two equity joint ventures. No such  
702 dispensary facility shall apply for, or create, any additional equity joint  
703 venture if, on July 1, 2021, such dispensary facility has created at least

704 two equity joint ventures that have each received a provisional license.

705 [(i)] (h) An equity joint venture applicant shall pay fifty per cent of  
706 the amount of any applicable fee specified in subsection (c) of section  
707 21a-420e for the first three renewal cycles of the applicable cannabis  
708 establishment license applied for, and shall pay the full amount of such  
709 fee thereafter.

710 Sec. 18. Section 21a-421a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
711 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

712 (a) Each employee of a cannabis establishment, cannabis testing  
713 laboratory or research program, other than a key employee, shall  
714 annually apply for and obtain a registration, on a form and in a manner  
715 prescribed by the commissioner, prior to commencing employment at  
716 the cannabis establishment business.

717 (b) No person shall act as a backer or key employee, or represent that  
718 such person is a backer or key employee, unless such person has  
719 obtained a license from the department pursuant to this subsection.  
720 Such person shall apply for a license on a form and in a manner  
721 prescribed by the commissioner. Such form may require the applicant  
722 to: (1) [Submit] Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section,  
723 submit to a state and national criminal history records check conducted  
724 in accordance with section 29-17a, which may include a financial history  
725 check if requested by the commissioner, to determine the character and  
726 fitness of the applicant for the license, (2) provide information sufficient  
727 for the department to assess whether the applicant has an ownership  
728 interest in any other cannabis establishment, cannabis establishment  
729 applicant or cannabis-related business nationally or internationally, (3)  
730 provide demographic information, and (4) obtain such other  
731 information as the department determines is consistent with the  
732 requirements of RERACA or chapter 420f. A backer or key employee  
733 shall be denied a license in the event his or her background check reveals  
734 a disqualifying conviction.

735 (c) If a person listed in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of section

736 21a-420, as amended by this act, holds any security interest in a cannabis  
737 establishment and appoints an authorized representative to temporarily  
738 engage in the control, management or operation of the cannabis  
739 establishment due to any failure to comply with the terms of the security  
740 instrument that created such security interest, such authorized  
741 representative shall obtain a key employee license from the department  
742 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section before temporarily engaging  
743 in the control, management or operation of such cannabis  
744 establishment. Such authorized representative shall apply for a key  
745 employee license in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of  
746 this section, except such authorized representative shall not be required  
747 to submit to a state and national criminal history records check  
748 conducted in accordance with section 29-17a. The provisions of this  
749 subsection shall not apply to an authorized representative who is a court  
750 appointee, as defined in section 8 of this act.

751 [(c)] (d) Except as provided in subsection [(d)] (e) of this section, any  
752 person who receives a cannabis establishment license, backer or key  
753 employee license or employee registration issued pursuant to  
754 subsection (a) of this section shall notify the department, in writing, of  
755 any changes to the information supplied on the application for such  
756 license or registration not later than five business days after such  
757 change.

758 [(d)] (e) Any person who receives a cannabis establishment license or  
759 backer or key employee license shall notify the department, in a manner  
760 prescribed by the department, of any arrest or conviction of such person  
761 for an offense that would constitute a disqualifying conviction, as  
762 defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act, not later than forty-  
763 eight hours after such arrest or conviction.

764 [(e)] (f) The department may adopt regulations in accordance with  
765 the provisions of chapter 54 to implement the provisions of this section,  
766 or may adopt policies and procedures as set forth in section 21a-421j,  
767 prior to adopting such final regulations.

768 Sec. 19. Subsection (a) of section 21a-421ccc of the general statutes is

769 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
770 *passage*):

771 (a) No person having possession of, or exercising dominion and  
772 control over, any dwelling unit or private property shall: (1) Knowingly  
773 or recklessly permit any person under twenty-one years of age to  
774 possess cannabis in violation of section [21-279a] 21a-279a, in such  
775 dwelling unit or on such private property, or (2) knowing that any  
776 person under twenty-one years of age possesses cannabis in violation of  
777 section [21-279a] 21a-279a, in such dwelling unit or on such private  
778 property, fail to make reasonable efforts to halt such possession.

779 Sec. 20. Section 21a-426 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
780 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

781 (a) As used in this section:

782 (1) "Cannabis establishment" has the same meaning as provided in  
783 section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

784 (2) "Consumer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420,  
785 as amended by this act;

786 (3) "Container" (A) means an object that is offered, intended for sale  
787 or sold to a consumer and directly contains (i) a manufacturer hemp  
788 product, or (ii) a moderate-THC hemp product, and (B) does not include  
789 an object or packaging that indirectly contains, or contains in bulk for  
790 transportation purposes, (i) a manufacturer hemp product, or (ii) a  
791 moderate-THC hemp product;

792 (4) "Hemp flower" (A) means the flower, including, but not limited  
793 to, any abnormal or immature flower, of hemp, as defined in section 22-  
794 61l, and (B) does not include the leaves or stem of hemp, as defined in  
795 said section 22-61l;

796 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) "Manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section  
797 22-61l;

798 [(5)] (6) "Manufacturer hemp product" has the same meaning as  
799 provided in section 22-611;

800 [(6)] (7) "Moderate-THC hemp product" (A) means a manufacturer  
801 hemp product that has a total THC [, as defined in section 21a-240,]  
802 concentration of not less than one-half of one milligram, and not more  
803 than five milligrams, on a per-container basis, and (B) does not include  
804 (i) an infused beverage, as defined in section 21a-425, or (ii) a legacy  
805 infused beverage, as defined in section 21a-425; and

806 [(7)] (8) "Moderate-THC hemp product vendor" means a person that  
807 (A) holds a certificate of registration issued by the Commissioner of  
808 Consumer Protection pursuant to this section, and (B) is not a cannabis  
809 establishment.

810 (b) Beginning on January 1, 2025, no person shall sell or offer to sell,  
811 at retail, any moderate-THC hemp product in the state to consumers  
812 unless such person is a cannabis establishment or holds a certificate of  
813 registration issued by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection  
814 pursuant to this section. The provisions of this section shall not apply to  
815 the wholesale or commercial distribution of moderate-THC hemp  
816 products for resale.

817 (c) (1) (A) Beginning on January 1, 2025, a person seeking a certificate  
818 of registration as a moderate-THC hemp product vendor shall submit  
819 to the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, in a form and manner  
820 prescribed by the commissioner, an application accompanied by a  
821 nonrefundable application fee in the amount of two thousand dollars or,  
822 if the applicant actively holds a manufacturer license, in the amount of  
823 one thousand dollars. Such application shall, at a minimum, disclose:

824 (i) The location in the state where such person currently sells or offers  
825 to sell, or proposes to sell or offer to sell, at retail, moderate-THC hemp  
826 products to consumers; and

827 (ii) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision,  
828 information sufficient for the commissioner to determine that:

829 (I) During the preceding year, at least eighty-five per cent of the  
830 average monthly gross revenue generated at such existing retail location  
831 was derived from sales, at retail, of moderate-THC hemp products and  
832 hemp flower to consumers; or

833 (II) It is reasonably likely that at least eighty-five per cent of the  
834 average monthly gross revenue to be generated at such proposed retail  
835 location will be derived from sales, at retail, of moderate-THC hemp  
836 products and hemp flower to consumers.

837 (B) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, the  
838 commissioner shall not issue a certificate of registration as a moderate-  
839 THC hemp product vendor unless the commissioner has determined  
840 that the applicant satisfies, or is reasonably likely to satisfy, the  
841 minimum sales threshold established in subparagraph (A) of this  
842 subdivision. Each such certificate shall expire annually, and shall allow  
843 the moderate-THC hemp product vendor to sell and offer to sell, at  
844 retail, moderate-THC hemp products and hemp flower to consumers at  
845 such location.

846 (C) (i) No person seeking a certificate of registration as a moderate-  
847 THC hemp product vendor shall be required to disclose information  
848 sufficient for the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to determine  
849 that such person satisfies, or is reasonably likely to satisfy, the minimum  
850 sales threshold established in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision if  
851 such person (I) manufactures moderate-THC hemp products at the  
852 location in the state where such person sells or offers to sell, or proposes  
853 to sell or offer to sell, at retail, moderate-THC hemp products to  
854 consumers, or (II) is actively licensed and operating as a manufacturer  
855 and sells or offers to sell, or proposes to sell or offer to sell, at retail, to  
856 consumers moderate-THC hemp products manufactured by such  
857 manufacturer.

858 (ii) The commissioner may issue a certificate of registration as a  
859 moderate-THC hemp product vendor to a person that satisfies the  
860 criteria set forth in subparagraph (C)(i) of this subdivision even if such  
861 person does not satisfy the minimum sales threshold established in

862 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

863 (2) (A) Each certificate issued pursuant to this section shall be  
864 renewable for additional one-year periods. Each moderate-THC hemp  
865 product vendor seeking renewal shall submit to the Commissioner of  
866 Consumer Protection, in a form and manner prescribed by the  
867 commissioner, a renewal application accompanied by a nonrefundable  
868 renewal application fee in the amount of two thousand dollars or, if the  
869 moderate-THC hemp product vendor actively holds a manufacturer  
870 license, in the amount of one thousand dollars. Such application shall,  
871 at a minimum and except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this  
872 subdivision, disclose information sufficient for the commissioner to  
873 determine that, during the preceding registration year, at least eighty-  
874 five per cent of the average monthly gross revenue generated at the  
875 moderate-THC hemp product vendor's registered retail location was  
876 derived from sales, at retail, of moderate-THC hemp products and  
877 hemp flower to consumers. Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of  
878 this subdivision, the commissioner shall not issue a renewal to a  
879 moderate-THC hemp product vendor unless the commissioner has  
880 determined that the moderate-THC hemp product vendor satisfied such  
881 minimum sales threshold.

882 (B) (i) No moderate-THC hemp product vendor seeking renewal of a  
883 certificate issued pursuant to this section shall be required to disclose  
884 information sufficient for the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to  
885 determine that such moderate-THC hemp product vendor satisfied the  
886 minimum sales threshold established in subparagraph (A) of this  
887 subdivision if (I) such moderate-THC hemp product vendor  
888 manufactures moderate-THC hemp products at such moderate-THC  
889 hemp product vendor's registered retail location, or (II) is actively  
890 licensed and operating as a manufacturer and sells or offers to sell, at  
891 retail, to consumers moderate-THC hemp products manufactured by  
892 such manufacturer.

893 (ii) The commissioner may issue a renewal to a moderate-THC hemp  
894 product vendor that satisfies the criteria set forth in subparagraph (B)(i)

895 of this subdivision even if the moderate-THC hemp product vendor did  
896 not satisfy the minimum sales threshold established in subparagraph  
897 (A) of this subdivision.

898 (3) All fees collected by the department under this section shall be  
899 deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established  
900 in section 21a-8a.

901 (d) No person may act as a moderate-THC hemp product vendor, or  
902 represent that such person is a moderate-THC hemp product vendor,  
903 unless such person has obtained and actively holds a certificate of  
904 registration as a moderate-THC hemp product vendor issued by the  
905 Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to this section.

906 (e) No cannabis establishment or moderate-THC hemp product  
907 vendor, or agent or employee of a cannabis establishment or moderate-  
908 THC hemp product vendor, shall sell a moderate-THC hemp product  
909 or hemp flower to any individual who is younger than twenty-one years  
910 of age. Prior to selling any moderate-THC hemp product or hemp  
911 flower to an individual, the cannabis establishment, moderate-THC  
912 hemp product vendor, agent or employee shall first verify the  
913 individual's age with a valid government-issued driver's license or  
914 identity card to establish that such individual is twenty-one years of age  
915 or older. If a moderate-THC hemp product vendor sells any moderate-  
916 THC hemp product or hemp flower by any means other than in an in-  
917 person transaction conducted at the moderate-THC hemp product  
918 vendor's registered retail location, including, but not limited to, by way  
919 of an Internet web site or mail order, such moderate-THC hemp product  
920 vendor shall ensure that the age of the individual who receives such  
921 moderate-THC hemp product or hemp flower is verified upon purchase  
922 and evidenced upon delivery with a valid government-issued driver's  
923 license or identity card to establish that such individual is twenty-one  
924 years of age or older.

925 (f) No person shall sell any moderate-THC hemp product intended  
926 for human ingestion in packaging that includes more than two  
927 containers.

928 (g) All moderate-THC hemp products shall meet the standards set  
929 forth for manufacturer hemp products in subsections (v), (w) and (x) of  
930 section 22-61m, as amended by this act.

931 (h) All moderate-THC hemp products shall meet (1) the testing  
932 standards for manufacturer hemp products established in, and any  
933 regulations adopted pursuant to, section 22-61m, as amended by this  
934 act, or (2) such other testing standards for manufacturer hemp products  
935 as the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, in the commissioner's  
936 discretion, may designate.

937 (i) Each moderate-THC hemp product container shall prominently  
938 display a symbol, in a size of not less than one-half inch by one-half inch  
939 and in a format approved by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection,  
940 that indicates that such moderate-THC hemp product is not legal or safe  
941 for individuals younger than twenty-one years of age.

942 (j) No cannabis establishment or moderate-THC hemp product  
943 vendor, or agent or employee of a cannabis establishment or moderate-  
944 THC hemp product vendor, shall gift or transfer any moderate-THC  
945 hemp product at no cost to a consumer as part of a commercial  
946 transaction.

947 (k) Each moderate-THC hemp product vendor shall be subject to the  
948 investigation and enforcement provisions set forth in section 21a-421p.

949 (l) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt  
950 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to  
951 implement the provisions of this section. Notwithstanding the  
952 requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, the commissioner  
953 shall, prior to adopting such regulations and in order to effectuate the  
954 provisions of this section, issue policies and procedures to implement  
955 the provisions of this section that shall have the force and effect of law.  
956 The commissioner shall post all policies and procedures on the  
957 Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site, and submit  
958 such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for posting on  
959 the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date

960 of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer  
961 be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or  
962 procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or forty-eight  
963 months from July 1, 2024, if such regulations have not been submitted  
964 to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under  
965 section 4-170.

966 (m) Following a hearing conducted in accordance with chapter 54,  
967 the Commissioner of Consumer Protection may impose an  
968 administrative civil penalty, not to exceed five thousand dollars per  
969 violation, and suspend, revoke or place conditions upon any moderate-  
970 THC hemp product vendor that violates any provision of this section or  
971 any regulation adopted pursuant to subsection (l) of this section. Any  
972 administrative civil penalty collected under this subsection shall be  
973 deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established  
974 in section 21a-8a.

975 Sec. 21. Subsection (s) of section 22-61m of the general statutes is  
976 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
977 *1, 2025*):

978 (s) Any claim of health impacts, medical effects or physical or mental  
979 benefits shall be prohibited on any advertising for, labeling of or  
980 marketing of manufacturer hemp products, including, but not limited  
981 to, moderate-THC hemp products, as defined in section 21a-426, as  
982 amended by this act, or hemp flower, as defined in section 21a-426, as  
983 amended by this act, regardless of whether such manufacturer hemp  
984 products were manufactured, or hemp flower was cultivated, in this  
985 state or another jurisdiction. Any violation of this subsection shall be  
986 deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of  
987 section 42-110b.

988 Sec. 22. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) During the period beginning July 1,  
989 2025, and ending October 1, 2026, the Department of Consumer  
990 Protection shall, not later than the first day of August, November,  
991 February and May, submit a report, in accordance with the provisions  
992 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor and the joint

993 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
 994 matters relating to consumer protection. Each report shall contain the  
 995 following:

996 (1) For each fiscal quarter, (A) the number of applicants that were  
 997 selected from the lottery, broken down by license type, (B) the number  
 998 of provisional licenses that the department issued pursuant to  
 999 RERACA, broken down by license type, (C) the number of final licenses  
 1000 that the department issued pursuant to RERACA, broken down by  
 1001 license type and town, and (D) the mechanism by which the department  
 1002 issued each final license pursuant to RERACA, including, but not  
 1003 limited to, by way of the lottery, to equity joint ventures and to  
 1004 cultivators located in disproportionately impacted areas;

1005 (2) For the previous four fiscal quarters, a chart demonstrating the  
 1006 increase or decrease in the number of cannabis establishment licenses  
 1007 issued for each license type per fiscal quarter; and

1008 (3) Any other information the department, in the department's  
 1009 discretion, may deem appropriate.

1010 Sec. 23. Section 20 of public act 23-79 is repealed. (*Effective June 30,*  
 1011 *2025*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	20-627
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	20-633b(j)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	21a-243
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	21a-408c
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	21a-420(1)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	21a-420(2)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	21a-420g(k)
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	21a-420p(e)

Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	21a-420r(b)
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	21a-420s(b)
Sec. 15	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	21a-420j(e) and (f)
Sec. 16	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	21a-420m(f) to (i)
Sec. 17	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	21a-420u(f) to (i)
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	21a-421a
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	21a-421ccc(a)
Sec. 20	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	21a-426
Sec. 21	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	22-61m(s)
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 23	<i>June 30, 2025</i>	Repealer section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 3(j), "from" was added before "a third-party entity" for clarity, and "license" was changed to "registration" for consistency; in Section 5(a)(4)(B), "to" was added before "the qualifying patient's caregiver" and "a person" for clarity; in Section 5(b)(6)(B), "to" was added before "a person"; in Section 8(d), the third sentence was rewritten for clarity; in Section 8(e), "may" was added before "revoke" for clarity; in Section 11(k)(2), "evidencing" was changed to "verifying" for clarity; in Section 22, "February, May, August and November" was changed to "August, November, February and May" for clarity.

**GL**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Revenue Serv., Dept.	Various - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund; Various=Various

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill makes various changes to the cannabis market resulting in the potential revenue gains described below.

**Section 1** results in a potential revenue gain in state sales tax by allowing the sale of hemp flowers in certain conditions. The actual revenue impact is dependent upon available product and demand for the product.

**Section 8** allows the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to issue a temporary cannabis operator license for an application fee \$500 resulting in a potential revenue gain to the state to the extent the license is applied for.

**Section 9** requires DCP to make signage requirements for cannabis establishments and makes violations subject to a fine of up to \$25,000 resulting in a potential revenue gain to the state to the extent violations occur.

Section 9 also creates a new unfair trade practice violation resulting in no fiscal impact to the state because DCP has the resources and expertise to meet the requirements of the bill.

**Section 18** requires an employee to be licensed as a key employee in certain circumstances resulting in a potential revenue gain to the state to the extent additional licenses are applied for.<sup>1</sup>

The bill also makes various changes to cannabis statutes that result in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of licenses applied for and the number of violations.

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<sup>1</sup>A key employee license has a fee of \$100, while a license for an employee who is not a key employee has a fee of \$50.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6855****AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING DRUG CONTROL AND CANNABIS, HEMP AND INFUSED BEVERAGE REGULATION.**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

[SUMMARY](#)[§§ 1, 21 & 22 — HEMP FLOWER, MODERATE THC PRODUCTS, AND MANUFACTURER HEMP PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS](#)

Allows individuals or entities who are not moderate-THC hemp product vendors or cannabis establishments to sell hemp flower under certain conditions (e.g., verify purchaser is at least age 21); allows moderate-THC hemp producers to use hemp flower sales for purposes of the required minimum sales threshold; applies existing law's prohibition on manufacturer hemp products claiming health benefits in advertising to moderate-THC hemp products and hemp flower

[§§ 2 & 3 — NON-RESIDENT PHARMACY INSPECTION REPORTS](#)

Requires non-resident pharmacies that offer sterile compounding to submit to DCP inspection reports from certain entities showing the pharmacy complies with the most recent U.S. Pharmacopeia standards

Requires DCP to (1) redesignate marijuana's controlled substance classification if there is a change in its federal classification and (2) designate additional items as controlled substances

[§ 5 — MEDICAL MARIJUANA CERTIFICATIONS](#)

Allows a (1) written certification to have additional durations of six months, 18 months, or two years and (2) caregiver and a person with medical decision-making authority to hear the risks and benefits on behalf of a qualifying patient

[§ 5 — MEDICAL MARIJUANA TEMPORARY EXTENSION OR CERTIFICATION](#)

Allows a licensed dispensary to give a 90-day extension for an expired written certification previously issued by a provider; allows a licensed dispensary to issue a 90-day temporary certification without a

provider's involvement, sets criteria for these certifications, allows a fee of up to \$25, and requires certain documentation subject to DCP requests

#### §§ 6, 8 & 18 — TEMPORARY CANNABIS OPERATOR LICENSE AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES

Establishes a temporary cannabis operator license for a court appointee to operate a cannabis establishment up to 60 days or more upon DCP approval; requires certain individuals appointed as an authorized representative to be licensed as a key employee

#### §§ 6 & 9 — SIGNAGE

Requires DCP to develop standardized signage to allow anyone to determine if a cannabis establishment is licensed; requires establishments to display this signage; prohibits certain actions related to the signs and makes violations a CUTPA violation

#### §§ 6 & 10 — NONRENEWAL NOTICES AND REINSTATEMENTS

Requires cannabis establishments to submit a nonrenewal notice to DCP at least 30 days before the license expires; allows DCP to reinstate licenses for 90 days after the license expires, upon payment of the renewal and late fees

#### § 7 — BANK EXCLUSION

Excludes certain financial institutions that provide non-equity financing and do not directly control or manage a cannabis establishment from being considered a backer

#### § 11 — CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

Specifies that the evidence required for a final license (1) must be evidenced by certain local building official approvals and (2) only applies to security requirements related to the premises

#### §§ 12-14 — SELLING, TRANSPORTING, OR TRANSFERRING CANNABIS

Expands the entities certain cannabis establishments may sell, transport, or transfer cannabis or cannabis products to include all cannabis establishments rather than just certain specified ones

#### §§ 15-17 — ELIMINATION OF MINIMUM SEPARATION REQUIREMENTS

Allows equity joint ventures to be located within 20 miles of each other even if they share certain backers or owners.

#### §§ 19 & 20 — TECHNICAL CHANGES

Makes technical changes

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**§§ 23 & 24 — CANNABIS REPORTS**

Modifies currently required reports DCP must give the governor and the General Law Committee quarterly until October 1, 2026

**BACKGROUND****SUMMARY**

This bill makes various changes to laws on adult-use cannabis, medical marijuana, other controlled substances, hemp, and sterile compounding pharmacies.

EFFECTIVE DATES: Various, see below.

**§§ 1, 21 & 22 — HEMP FLOWER, MODERATE THC PRODUCTS, AND MANUFACTURER HEMP PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS**

*Allows individuals or entities who are not moderate-THC hemp product vendors or cannabis establishments to sell hemp flower under certain conditions (e.g., verify purchaser is at least age 21); allows moderate-THC hemp producers to use hemp flower sales for purposes of the required minimum sales threshold; applies existing law's prohibition on manufacturer hemp products claiming health benefits in advertising to moderate-THC hemp products and hemp flower*

***Hemp Flower (§ 1)***

The bill allows any person (e.g., individual or entity) who is not a moderate-THC hemp product vendor or licensed cannabis establishment to sell hemp flower under certain conditions. The person must exclusively sell it through (1) a direct, in-person exchange on commercial premises or (2) delivery, including through online or mail order sales.

In-person sales must:

1. require the person's assistance, or the person's agent or employee's assistance, to access hemp flower, and
2. maintain all hemp flower behind a sales counter that is inaccessible to consumers, or in a locked container (i.e. an object that is offered, intended for sale, or sold to a consumer and directly contains hemp flower, and does not include an object or packaging that indirectly contains, or contains in bulk for transportation purposes, hemp flower).

The bill requires these sellers to ensure that the individual purchasing and receiving the hemp flower is age 21 or older before the purchase and delivery. Verification must be done with a valid government-issued driver's license or identity card.

Under the bill, "hemp flower" is the flower, including any abnormal or immature flower, of hemp. It does not include the hemp leaves or stem.

A "cannabis establishment" is a cannabis producer, dispensary facility, cultivator, micro-cultivator, retailer, hybrid retailer (one licensed to sell both recreational cannabis and medical marijuana), food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer or packager, delivery service, or transporter.

#### ***Moderate-THC Hemp (§ 21)***

**Definitions.** By law, a "moderate-THC hemp product vendor" is a person with a Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) registration to sell moderate-THC hemp products at retail (and who is not a licensed cannabis establishment).

"Moderate-THC hemp products" are manufacturer hemp products (i.e. generally those intended for human ingestion, inhalation, absorption, or other internal consumption) with a total THC of between .5 mg and 5 mgs, on a per-container basis and does not include infused beverages. The bill specifies that the total THC thresholds in a moderate-THC hemp product refers to the concentration.

**Vendors.** The bill allows moderate-THC hemp product vendors to sell and offer to sell hemp flowers at their retail location to consumers.

Current law generally requires a person seeking a registration as a moderate-THC hemp product vendor to submit to DCP an application showing, among other things, (1) for an existing retail location, at least 85% of the location's average monthly gross revenue in the prior year was from retail sales of moderate-THC hemp products to consumers or (2) for a proposed retail location, it is reasonably likely that at least 85%

of the average monthly gross revenue will be from these sales. It also has the same sales threshold requirement for renewals. The bill allows these percentages to include hemp flower sales.

As under existing law, the DCP commissioner is generally prohibited from issuing the certificate unless he has determined that the applicant satisfies, or is reasonably likely to satisfy, the minimum sales threshold.

**Manufacturer Exemption.** Current law exempts from the minimum sales threshold vendors that manufacture moderate-THC hemp products where they sell, or propose selling, these products to consumers. The bill also requires them to be operating as a manufacturer.

**Age Verification.** The bill prohibits vendors from selling hemp flower to anyone younger than age 21. As under existing law for moderate-THC hemp products, before selling hemp flower to an individual, a cannabis establishment, moderate-THC vendor, or their agents or employees, must first verify the buyer's age with a valid government-issued driver's license or identity card.

Even if a vendor sells moderate-THC hemp products or hemp flowers in another way (e.g., Internet or mail order), the vendor must still ensure the receiver's age is verified when purchased and verified upon delivery by the same identification as above.

### **Manufacturer Hemp Product Health Claims (§ 22)**

Existing law prohibits manufacturer hemp products (wherever made) from claiming health impacts, medical effects, or physical or mental benefits on any advertising, labeling, or marketing. The bill applies this prohibition to moderate-THC hemp products and hemp flower, regardless of where they were manufactured or cultivated.

It deems a violation a Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA, see BACKGROUND) violation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

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**§§ 2 & 3 — NON-RESIDENT PHARMACY INSPECTION REPORTS**

*Requires non-resident pharmacies that offer sterile compounding to submit to DCP inspection reports from certain entities showing the pharmacy complies with the most recent U.S. Pharmacopeia standards*

Under current law, a non-resident sterile compounding pharmacy must provide DCP with proof that it passed an inspection in its home state based on U.S. Pharmacopeia standards (Chapters 797, 800, 825).

The bill instead requires these non-resident pharmacies, or non-resident pharmacies that sell, deliver, or offer sterile compounded products for sale in Connecticut, to submit an inspection report from a government agency with regulatory oversight or third-party entity with expertise in sterile compounding showing the pharmacy complies with the most recent U.S. Pharmacopeia standards (Chapter 797).

**Recent Inspection Reports.** Existing law requires non-resident sterile compounding pharmacies to submit to DCP a copy of the most recent inspection report with its initial application. The bill specifies that the report must be dated by the inspector with evidence that the inspection was done within six months of the initial application's submission.

**Uniform Submission Date.** The bill also sets uniform deadlines for when inspection reports must be submitted. Under current law, a copy of the pharmacy's most recent inspection report must be submitted every two years after the initial application. The bill instead requires these pharmacies to submit a new inspection report by June 30 of each even-numbered calendar year after the initial application. This inspection must have occurred during that calendar year and show that the pharmacy remains compliant with the most recent U.S. Pharmacopeia standards.

**Elimination of Alternative.** The bill eliminates an alternative under current law to providing inspections based on U.S. Pharmacopeia standards. It does so by eliminating the provision allowing non-resident pharmacies in a state that does not do inspections based on these standards to give satisfactory proof to DCP that the pharmacy complies

with the standards.

**One Inspection per Year.** The bill specifies that a non-resident pharmacy is not required to submit more than one inspection report during any calendar year after it is issued an initial registration.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2026

#### **§ 4 — CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

*Requires DCP to (1) redesignate marijuana's controlled substance classification if there is a change in its federal classification and (2) designate additional items as controlled substances*

##### **Marijuana**

Federal law classifies marijuana (cannabis) as a schedule I controlled substance; Connecticut classifies it in schedule II. Under the bill, if marijuana is federally reclassified as a schedule III, IV, or V controlled substance under the Controlled Substances Act, or if it is unscheduled by the Drug Enforcement Administration or a successor agency, then the DCP commissioner must adopt the federal schedule.

##### **Additional Substances**

The bill requires the DCP commissioner to amend its regulations to designate the following substances as controlled substances and classify each in the appropriate schedule. The bill specifies that the designation may be by whatever official, common, usual, chemical, or trade name applies to the substances. The substances are:

1. 7-hydroxymitragynine;
2. bromazolam;
3. flubromazolam;
4. mitragyna speciosa (kratom), including its leaves, stem, and any extracts;
5. nitazenes, including isotonitazene;
6. tianeptine; and

7. phenibut.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

### **Background — Schedule of Controlled Substances**

Controlled substances are grouped in Schedules I through V, according to their decreasing tendency to promote abuse or dependency. Schedule I substances, most of which do not have any approved medical use, are the most strictly controlled because of their high potential for abuse. State and federal laws authorize prescribing drugs on Schedules II through V.

### **§ 5 — MEDICAL MARIJUANA CERTIFICATIONS**

*Allows a (1) written certification to have additional durations of six months, 18 months, or two years and (2) caregiver and a person with medical decision-making authority to hear the risks and benefits on behalf of a qualifying patient*

#### **Written Certifications**

The bill allows a written certification for medical marijuana use to have durations of six months, one year, 18 months, or two years, as determined by the physician, physician assistant (PA), or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) issuing the certification. Current law only allows certifications to last one year.

#### **Caregiver and Person With Medical Decision-making Authority**

Existing law requires a physician, PA, or APRN to explain the potential risks and benefits of medical marijuana to certain individuals on behalf of a patient who lacks legal capacity. The bill expands the list to include the qualifying patient's caregiver and a person with medical decision-making authority for the qualifying patient.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2026

### **§ 5 — MEDICAL MARIJUANA TEMPORARY EXTENSION OR CERTIFICATION**

*Allows a licensed dispensary to give a 90-day extension for an expired written certification previously issued by a provider; allows a licensed dispensary to issue a 90-day temporary certification without a provider's involvement, sets criteria for these certifications, allows a fee of up to \$25, and requires certain documentation subject to DCP requests*

Under current law, only a physician, PA, or APRN may issue a written certification for a patient's medical marijuana use. The bill allows a licensed dispensary (i.e. pharmacist employed by a dispensary facility or hybrid retailer) to give a temporary extension, of up to 90 days, for an expired certification issued by one of these providers. The dispensary may do so as part of his or her employment on the dispensary facility or hybrid retailer's premises.

Subject to certain requirements, the bill also allows a licensed dispensary to issue his or her own temporary certification for up to 90 days. As under existing law for PA- or APRN-issued certifications, the bill prohibits a licensed dispensary from issuing a temporary written certification to a person for glaucoma.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2026

### ***Dispensary-Issued Temporary Certifications***

**Criteria.** The dispensary may issue a temporary written certification for a patient's medical marijuana use if the dispensary has:

1. reasonably determined, after reviewing the person's medical history, that they are at least age 18, and have a debilitating medical condition (other than glaucoma);
2. done an in-person assessment at the dispensary facility or hybrid retailer that employs the dispensary; and
3. reviewed the electronic prescription drug monitoring program and verified that no other licensed dispensary prescribed or dispensed marijuana to the person during the prior year.

**Form.** Under the bill, each temporary written certification must be in a DCP-prescribed form and include a statement, signed and dated by the licensed dispensary, saying that it is his or her professional opinion that the:

1. person gave sufficient proof that he or she has a debilitating medical condition, and

2. potential benefits the person would derive from medical marijuana likely outweigh the health risks.

**Fee.** The bill allows a licensed dispensary or the dispensary facility or hybrid retailer that employs them to impose a fee of up to \$25 for a temporary written certification. It prohibits them from imposing any other fee connected to these certifications.

**Documentation.** A licensed dispensary that issues a temporary written certification must keep all related patient assessment and eligibility documentation for at least three years after issuing the certification. The documentation must be organized and maintained in (1) hard copy at the premises where the in-person assessment was done, or (2) an electronic system the licensed dispensary can readily access.

The bill requires these dispensaries to ensure that all patient assessment and eligibility documentation is made readily available to DCP, and must submit any documentation to the department, in a DCP-set form and manner, within 48 hours after the department requests it.

**Protection From Punishment.** The bill prohibits a licensed dispensary from being arrested, prosecuted, or otherwise penalized, including being subject to civil penalties, or denied any right or privilege, including being disciplined by the pharmacy commission or other professional licensing board, for giving a temporary written certification. The dispensary is immunized if he or she:

1. reasonably determined, after reviewing the person's medical history, that the person is age 18 or older and has a debilitating medical condition (other than glaucoma); and
2. explained the potential risks and benefits of medical marijuana to the person and, if the person lacks legal capacity, to a parent, guardian or person having legal custody of, or legally authorized to make medical decisions for, the person.

## §§ 6, 8 & 18 — TEMPORARY CANNABIS OPERATOR LICENSE AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES

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*Establishes a temporary cannabis operator license for a court appointee to operate a cannabis establishment up to 60 days or more upon DCP approval; requires certain individuals appointed as an authorized representative to be licensed as a key employee*

The bill provides additional procedures for instances when an unlicensed third party, such as a receiver, takes over management of a cannabis establishment. It establishes a temporary cannabis operator license and requires certain other individuals appointed as an authorized representative to be licensed as a key employee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

### ***Temporary Cannabis Operator License***

The bill allows DCP, upon receiving a complete application and fee payment, to issue a temporary cannabis operator license to a court appointee to operate a cannabis establishment for up to 60 days. The DCP commissioner may allow a longer period if he deems it reasonably necessary to allow the orderly disposition of (1) the establishment in a court supervised proceeding or (2) any delinquencies or deficiencies the court identifies.

***DCP Recommendation.*** Under the bill, DCP may recommend a person to any state court to be appointed or designated as the court appointee for any court supervised proceeding. Each court appointee licensed as a temporary cannabis operator must comply with all applicable provisions in state law, regulations, policies, and procedures.

***Application.*** The bill requires a court appointee to apply to DCP, in a commissioner-prescribed form and manner, for a temporary cannabis operator license. The application must include:

1. the court appointee's contact information;
2. proof that the appointee has been appointed or designated to exercise court oversight of the relevant cannabis establishment's property, assets, management, or operations;
3. the requested duration of the temporary license; and

4. a summary of the circumstances that led to the application.

Regardless of any other state law, the bill specifies that a court appointee who applies for a temporary cannabis operator license is not required to submit to or pass a criminal history records check or financial history check.

The bill requires each application submitted to DCP to be accompanied by a nonrefundable \$500 fee. These fees DCP collects are paid to the state treasurer and credited to the General Fund.

**Extension.** The bill allows a court appointee to submit an extension request to DCP, in a commissioner-prescribed form and manner. The department may grant an extension if the commissioner determines, in his discretion, that the extension is reasonably necessary to allow for resolution of the court supervised proceeding.

**Reasons for Not Issuing, Extending, or Revoking License.** Under the bill, the commissioner may refuse to issue or extend, or revoke, a temporary cannabis operator license:

1. if the court appointee does not begin operating the establishment immediately after the license is issued (or does not propose to do so), unless the commissioner, in his discretion and in writing, waives the requirement and extends the period for the appointee to begin operating it;
2. for sufficient cause, as set by the laws governing adult-use cannabis (e.g., furnishing false or fraudulent information in an application);
3. if the court appointee operates the establishment in violation of any applicable state law, regulation, policy, or procedure; or
4. if the temporary license's term has expired.

### **Authorized Representatives**

The bill requires certain authorized representatives who temporarily

engage in the control, management, or operation of a cannabis establishment to get a key employee license. This applies when a bank or certain other entities that provided nonequity financing to the establishment but are not “backers” of it (see § 7 below) appoint this representative due to a failure to comply with the terms of a security instrument created by the security interest.

The authorized representative must apply for a key employee license, except that he or she is not required to submit to a criminal history records check.

These requirements do not apply to court appointed authorized representatives.

### **§§ 6 & 9 — SIGNAGE**

*Requires DCP to develop standardized signage to allow anyone to determine if a cannabis establishment is licensed; requires establishments to display this signage; prohibits certain actions related to the signs and makes violations a CUTPA violation*

The bill requires DCP to develop standardized signage with a quick response code or comparable electronic identifier that allows any person to determine whether the cannabis establishment displaying the sign has an active DCP-issued license.

Under the bill, each cannabis establishment must display this standardized signage in a department-prescribed form and manner.

The bill prohibits (1) establishments from displaying the sign in any other way and (2) any other person or establishment from displaying the standardized sign or substantially similar signs that incorrectly indicate the person or establishment holds an active DCP cannabis license.

The bill deems violations a violation of CUTPA. Additionally, a cannabis establishment that violates the signage provision is subject to additional license penalties (e.g., suspension or revocation).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

### **§§ 6 & 10 — NONRENEWAL NOTICES AND REINSTATEMENTS**

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*Requires cannabis establishments to submit a nonrenewal notice to DCP at least 30 days before the license expires; allows DCP to reinstate licenses for 90 days after the license expires, upon payment of the renewal and late fees*

### **Nonrenewal Notices**

Under the bill, if a cannabis establishment decides not to renew its license, it must submit a nonrenewal notice to DCP, in a commissioner-prescribed form and manner, to coordinate efforts to dispose of any cannabis the establishment may possess when the license expires. The cannabis establishment must submit this notice at least 30 days before the license expires.

The bill prohibits a lapsed cannabis establishment license holder from (1) engaging in any activity where a license is required, or (2) possessing any cannabis on the lapsed cannabis establishment premises.

### **Reinstatement**

Under the bill, if DCP does not receive a complete license renewal application from a cannabis establishment before its license expires, DCP may accept a license reinstatement application from the establishment for 90 days following the expiration date. If DCP accepts a reinstatement application, the applicant must:

1. pay to the department the current year's license renewal fee and a 10% late fee, and
2. submit a signed statement, in a commissioner-prescribed form and manner, attesting that the applicant did not engage in any activity in Connecticut where an active cannabis establishment license was required while the license was lapsed.

DCP may, in its discretion, reinstate the lapsed license for an applicant that has satisfied the bill's reinstatement requirements. If the reinstated license was issued to a social equity applicant, the period the license was lapsed does not count toward the time the applicant was licensed for the purposes of ownership and control requirements. Existing law prohibits certain ownership changes in an equity joint venture's first seven years.

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EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

## § 7 — BANK EXCLUSION

*Excludes certain financial institutions that provide non-equity financing and do not directly control or manage a cannabis establishment from being considered a backer*

By law, a cannabis establishment backer is generally any individual with a direct or indirect financial interest in a cannabis establishment, and backers must be licensed by DCP. The bill excludes certain financial institutions that provide non-equity financing to a cannabis establishment and do not directly participate in the establishment's control, management, or operation from being considered a backer.

Specifically the bill excludes: any bank, bank and trust company, bank holding company, Connecticut bank, Connecticut credit union, federal bank, federal branch, federal credit union, financial institution, foreign bank, holding company, out-of-state bank, out-of-state credit union, out-of-state trust company, savings and loan association, savings bank, or savings and loan holding company, or a wholly-owned subsidiary.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

## § 11 — CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

*Specifies that the evidence required for a final license (1) must be evidenced by certain local building official approvals and (2) only applies to security requirements related to the premises*

Existing law requires final cannabis establishment licenses to include evidence of a right to occupy the location where the establishment operations will be located. The bill specifies that this must be evidenced by a certificate of occupancy, temporary certificate of occupancy, or a substantively similar written approval from the local building official showing that the premises is substantially complete.

Another existing requirement is providing evidence of all other DCP-set security requirements based on license type. The bill specifies that the security requirements are only for those related to the premises.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

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**§§ 12-14 — SELLING, TRANSPORTING, OR TRANSFERRING CANNABIS**

*Expands the entities certain cannabis establishments may sell, transport, or transfer cannabis or cannabis products to include all cannabis establishments rather than just certain specified ones*

The bill expands the entities to whom certain cannabis establishments may sell, transport, or transfer cannabis or cannabis products, to include all cannabis establishments rather than just certain ones.

Under current law, the following licensees may sell, transport, or transfer cannabis or cannabis products to these specified entities:

1. micro-cultivators to a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer, retailer, delivery service, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer, or product packager (§ 12); and
2. retailers and hybrid retailers to a delivery service (§§ 13 & 14).

As under existing law, these licensees may also sell, transport, or transfer cannabis or cannabis products to a cannabis testing laboratory or research program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**§§ 15-17 — ELIMINATION OF MINIMUM SEPARATION REQUIREMENTS**

*Allows equity joint ventures to be located within 20 miles of each other even if they share certain backers or owners.*

The bill allows equity joint ventures to be located within 20 miles of each other even if they share certain backers or owners. It does so by eliminating the prohibition against this under current law.

Current law prohibits equity joint ventures that are retailers or hybrid retailers from being located within 20 miles of each other if (depending on the license type) they share a common (1) cultivator backer or owner, (2) producer backer or owner, (3) dispensary facility backer or owner, or (4) hybrid retailer backer or owner.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2026

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**§§ 19 & 20 — TECHNICAL CHANGES**

*Makes technical changes*

The bill makes technical changes, including to correct a statutory citation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage (for the citation correction) and October 1, 2025.

**§§ 23 & 24 — CANNABIS REPORTS**

*Modifies currently required reports DCP must give the governor and the General Law Committee quarterly until October 1, 2026*

The bill modifies currently required reports DCP must provide the governor and the General Law Committee quarterly until October 1, 2026. It does the following:

1. extends by one month the due date for each report (for example, requiring the first report in 2026 by February 1 instead of January 1);
2. eliminates the requirement that the number of final licenses be broken down by county, but still requires it to be broken down by town;
3. limits the current requirement to report the mechanism DCP used to issue each license to only final licenses;
4. eliminates the requirement that DCP include a good faith estimate on anticipated increases in the number of cannabis establishments during the next calendar year; and
5. adds the requirement that DCP includes a chart for the previous four fiscal quarters showing the change in the number of cannabis establishment licenses issued for each license type per fiscal quarter.

Like current law, the bill requires DCP to submit the report to the governor and the General Law Committee, and it must also include the number of applicants that were selected from the lottery and provisional

licenses, broken down by license type.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025, except the repealer is effective June 30, 2025.

**BACKGROUND**

**CUTPA**

By law, CUTPA prohibits businesses from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices. It allows the DCP commissioner, under specified procedures, to issue regulations defining an unfair trade practice, investigate complaints, issue cease and desist orders, order restitution in cases involving less than \$10,000, impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000, enter into consent agreements, ask the attorney general to seek injunctive relief, and accept voluntary statements of compliance. It also allows individuals to sue. Courts may issue restraining orders; award actual and punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorney’s fees; and impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for willful violations and up to \$25,000 for a restraining order violation.

**Related Bills**

sSB 970, favorably reported by the General Law Committee, makes various changes to laws on manufacturer hemp products, including requiring them to be made from naturally manufactured hemp cannabinoids.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/24/2025)