General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 6855

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **4316**

Referred to Committee on GENERAL LAW

Introduced by:
(GL)

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:

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

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

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

(3) "Manufacturer hemp product" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-61*l* of the general statutes;

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

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

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

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

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 Section 20-627 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(6) Before receiving a certificate of registration from the department, submit a copy of the most recent inspection report resulting from an inspection conducted by the regulatory or licensing agency of the state in which the nonresident pharmacy is located. If the nonresident pharmacy is delivering sterile compounded products within this state, such inspection report shall include a section based on standards required in the most recent United States Pharmacopeia, Chapter 797, as amended from time to time. If the state in which the nonresident pharmacy is located does not conduct inspections based on standards required in the most recent United States Pharmacopeia, Chapter 797,

as amended from time to time, such nonresident pharmacy shall provide proof to the department that it is in compliance with such standards;

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

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

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

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

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

(j) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, a sterile compounding pharmacy that is a nonresident pharmacy shall **[**provide**]** submit to the Department of Consumer Protection **[**proof that such nonresident pharmacy has passed an inspection in such nonresident pharmacy's home state, based on the USP chapters**]** inspection reports from government agencies or third-party entities with expertise in sterile compounding demonstrating that such sterile compounding pharmacy is in compliance with the standards required in the most recent United States Pharmacopeia, Chapter 797, as amended from time to time. Such nonresident pharmacy shall submit to the **[**Department of Consumer Protection**]** department a copy of the most recent inspection report with such nonresident pharmacy's initial nonresident pharmacy application, **[**and**]** which inspection report shall be dated by the inspector and indicate that the inspection was performed during the six-month period immediately preceding the date of such initial application. Not later than June thirtieth of each even-numbered calendar year following such initial application, such nonresident pharmacy shall submit to the department a **[**copy of such nonresident pharmacy's most recent**]** new inspection report **[**every two years thereafter. If the state in which such nonresident pharmacy is located does not conduct inspections based on standards required in the USP chapters, such nonresident pharmacy shall provide satisfactory proof to the department that such nonresident pharmacy is in compliance with the standards required in the USP chapters**]** demonstrating that such sterile compounding pharmacy remains in compliance with the standards required in the most recent United States Pharmacopeia, Chapter 797, as amended from time to time, which inspection report shall be dated by the inspector and indicate that the inspection was performed not earlier than January first of such even-numbered calendar year.

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

(a) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt

regulations for the efficient enforcement and operation of sections 21a-244 to 21a-282, inclusive.

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

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

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

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section, not later than January 1, 2013, the Commissioner of

Consumer Protection shall submit amendments to sections 21a-243-7 and 21a-243-8 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies to the standing legislative regulation review committee to reclassify marijuana as a controlled substance in schedule II under the Connecticut controlled substance scheduling regulations, except that for any marijuana product that has been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration or successor agency to have a medical use and that is reclassified in any schedule of controlled substances or unscheduled by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or successor agency, the commissioner shall adopt the schedule designated by the Drug Enforcement Administration or successor agency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) 7-hydroxymitragynine;

(ii) Bromazolam;

(iii) Flubromazolam;

(iv) Mitragyna speciosa (kratom), including its leaves, stem and any

extracts;

(v) Nitazenes, including, but not limited to, isotonitazene;

(vi) Tianeptine; and

(vii) Phenibut.

(B) Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to protect public health and safety, prior to amending the regulations adopted pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection in accordance with subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the commissioner shall issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of this subdivision that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or forty-eight months from July 1, 2025, if such regulation has not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under section 4-170.

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

(1) Mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone);

(2) Synthetic cannabinoids; and

(3) MDPV (3,4-methyenedioxypyrovalerone).

Sec. 5. Section 21a-408c of the general statutes is repealed and the

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

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

[(b) Any**]** (2) Except as provided in subdivision (5) of this subsection, any written certification **[**for the palliative use of marijuana**]** issued by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse **[**under subsection (a) of this section**]** pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be valid for a period not to exceed six months, one year, eighteen months or two years from the date on which such written certification is signed and dated by the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse. **[**Not**]** Except as provided in subdivision (5) of this subsection, not later than ten calendar days after the expiration of such period, or at any time before the expiration of such period should the qualifying patient no longer wish to possess marijuana for palliative use, the qualifying patient or the caregiver shall destroy all usable marijuana possessed by the qualifying patient and the caregiver for palliative use.

[(c)**]** (3) A physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse shall not be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by the Connecticut Medical

Examining Board, the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing or other professional licensing board, for providing a written certification **[**for the palliative use of marijuana**]** under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-408a if:

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

[(2)**]** (B) The physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse has explained the potential risks and benefits of the palliative use of marijuana to the qualifying patient and, if the qualifying patient lacks legal capacity, to a parent, guardian or person having legal custody of, or medical decision-making authority for, the qualifying patient;

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

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

[(d)**]** (4) A physician assistant or nurse shall not be subject to arrest or prosecution, penalized in any manner, including, but not limited to, being subject to any civil penalty, or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, being subject to any disciplinary action by the Connecticut Medical Examining Board, Board of Examiners for Nursing or other professional licensing board, for administering marijuana to a qualifying patient or research program subject in a

hospital or health care facility licensed by the Department of Public Health.

(5) A licensed dispensary may grant a temporary extension of a written certification issued by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection for a period not to exceed ninety consecutive days following expiration of such written certification. If a qualifying patient is granted a temporary extension but is not issued a new written certification pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection during the term of such temporary extension, the qualifying patient or the caregiver shall, not later than ten calendar days after the expiration of such temporary extension, or at any time before the expiration of such temporary extension should such qualifying patient no longer wish to possess marijuana for palliative use, destroy all usable marijuana possessed by such qualifying patient for palliative use.

(b) (1) A licensed dispensary may issue a temporary written certification to an individual that authorizes the individual to engage in the palliative use of marijuana as a qualifying patient for a period not to exceed ninety consecutive days, provided such licensed dispensary has:

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

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

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

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

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

(4) If an individual is issued a temporary written certification pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection but is not issued a written certification pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section during the term of such temporary written certification, the individual shall, not later than ten calendar days after the expiration of such temporary written certification, or at any time before the expiration of such temporary written certification should such individual no longer wish to possess marijuana for palliative use, destroy all usable marijuana possessed by such individual for palliative use.

(5) A licensed dispensary that issues a temporary written certification pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall maintain all patient assessment and eligibility documentation concerning such temporary written certification for a period of at least three years beginning on the date on which the dispensary issued such temporary written certification. Such documentation shall be organized and maintained (A) in hard copy at the dispensary facility or hybrid retailer premises at

which the licensed dispensary conducted an in-person assessment of the patient, or (B) electronically in a system accessible by the licensed dispensary.

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

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

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

(B) The licensed dispensary has explained the potential risks and benefits of the palliative use of marijuana to the individual and, if the individual lacks legal capacity, to a parent, guardian or person having legal custody of, or medical decision-making authority for, the individual.

[(e)**]** (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, sections 21a-408 to 21a-408b, inclusive, and sections 21a-408d to 21a-408o, inclusive, a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse shall not issue a written certification to a qualifying patient, and a licensed

dispensary shall not issue a temporary written certification to an individual, when the qualifying patient's or individual's debilitating medical condition is glaucoma.

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

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

(1) "Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis Act" or "RERACA" means this section, sections 2-56j, 7-294kk, 7-294*ll*, 12-330*ll* to 12-330nn, inclusive, 14-227p, 21a-278b, 21a-278c, 21a-279c, 21a-279d, 21a-420a to 21a-420j, inclusive, as amended by this act, 21a-420*l* to 21a-421r, inclusive, 21a-421aa to 21a-421ff, inclusive, 21a-421aaa to 21a-421hhh, inclusive, 21a-422 to 21a-422c, inclusive, 21a-422e to 21a-422g, inclusive, 21a-422j to 21a-422s, inclusive, 22-61n, 23-4b, 47a-9a, 53-247a, 53a-213a, 53a-213b, 54-33p, 54-56q, 54-56r, 54-125k and 54-142u, sections 23, 60, 63 to 65, inclusive, 124, 144 and 165 of public act 21-1 of the June special session, and the amendments in public act 21-1 of the June special session to sections 7-148, 10-221, 12-30a, 12-35b, 12-412, 12-650, 12-704d, 14-44k, 14-111e, 14-227a to 14-227c, inclusive, 14-227j, 15-140q, 15-140r, 18-100h, 19a-342, 19a-342a, 21a-267, 21a-277, 21a-279, 21a-279a, 21a-408 to 21a-408f, inclusive, 21a-408h to 21a-408p, inclusive, 21a-408r to 21a-408w, inclusive, 21a-420aa, 21a-421s, 30-89a, 31-40q, 32-39, 46b-120, 51-164n, 53-394, 53a-39c, 54-1m, 54-33g, 54-41b, 54-56e, 54-56g, 54-56i, 54-56k, 54-56n, 54-63d, 54-66a and 54-142e **[**, section 20 of public act 23-79*]** and sections 8 and 20 of this act;

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

(2) "Backer" means any individual with a direct or indirect financial interest in a cannabis establishment. "Backer" does not include (A) a 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, as said terms are defined in section 36a-2, or a wholly-owned subsidiary thereof, that provides nonequity financing to a cannabis establishment and does not directly participate in the control, management or operation of the cannabis establishment, or (B) an individual with an investment interest in a cannabis establishment if **[**(A)**]** (i) the interest held by such individual and such individual's spouse, parent or child, in the aggregate, does not exceed five per cent of the total ownership or interest rights in such cannabis establishment, and **[**(B)**]** (ii) such individual does not participate directly or indirectly in the control, management or operation of the cannabis establishment;

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

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

(2) "Court supervised proceeding" means a proceeding in which a court of competent jurisdiction appoints or designates a court appointee to exercise court oversight with respect to the property, assets, management or operations of a cannabis establishment.

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

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

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

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

(A) The contact information for such court appointee;

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

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

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

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, no court appointee who applies for a temporary cannabis operator license

pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be required to submit to or pass a criminal history records check or financial history check.

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

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

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

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

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

(3) If the court appointee operates the cannabis establishment in violation of any applicable provision of the general statutes or any regulation, policy or procedure adopted or promulgated thereunder; or

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

Sec. 9. Subsection (e) of section 21a-420p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

Sec. 10. Subsection (b) of section 21a-420r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

Sec. 11. Subsection (b) of section 21a-420s of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

Sec. 12. Subsections (e) and (f) of section 21a-420j of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

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

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

Sec. 13. Subsections (f) to (i), inclusive, of section 21a-420m of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

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

[(g)**]** (f) If a producer has paid a reduced conversion fee, as described in subsection (b) of section 21a-420*l*, and subsequently did not create two equity joint ventures under this section that, not later than fourteen

months after the Department of Consumer Protection approved the producer's license expansion application under section 21a-420*l*, each received a final license from the department, the producer shall be liable for the full conversion fee of three million dollars established in section 21a-420*l* minus such paid reduced conversion fee.

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

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

Sec. 14. Subsections (f) to (i), inclusive, of section 21a-420u of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

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

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

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

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

Sec. 15. Section 21a-421a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

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

(b) No person shall act as a backer or key employee, or represent that such person is a backer or key employee, unless such person has obtained a license from the department pursuant to this subsection. Such person shall apply for a license on a form and in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. Such form may require the applicant to: (1) **[**Submit**]** Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, submit to a state and national criminal history records check conducted in accordance with section 29-17a, which may include a financial history check if requested by the commissioner, to determine the character and fitness of the applicant for the license, (2) provide information sufficient for the department to assess whether the applicant has an ownership interest in any other cannabis establishment, cannabis establishment applicant or cannabis-related business nationally or internationally, (3)

provide demographic information, and (4) obtain such other information as the department determines is consistent with the requirements of RERACA or chapter 420f. A backer or key employee shall be denied a license in the event his or her background check reveals a disqualifying conviction.

(c) If a person listed in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act, holds any security interest in a cannabis establishment and appoints an authorized representative to temporarily engage in the control, management or operation of the cannabis establishment due to any failure to comply with the terms of the security instrument that created such security interest, such authorized representative shall obtain a key employee license from the department pursuant to subsection (b) of this section before temporarily engaging in the control, management or operation of such cannabis establishment. Such authorized representative shall apply for a key employee license in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, except such authorized representative shall not be required to submit to a state and national criminal history records check conducted in accordance with section 29-17a. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to an authorized representative who is a court appointee, as defined in section 8 of this act.

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

[(d)**]** (e) Any person who receives a cannabis establishment license or backer or key employee license shall notify the department, in a manner prescribed by the department, of any arrest or conviction of such person for an offense that would constitute a disqualifying conviction, as

defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act, not later than forty-eight hours after such arrest or conviction.

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

Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 21a-421ccc of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

Sec. 17. Section 21a-425 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

For the purposes of this section and sections 21a-425a and 21a-425b:

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

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

(3) "Cannabis product" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

(4) "Cannabis testing laboratory" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408;

(5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer Protection;

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

(7) "Container" (A) means **[**an object**]** a child-resistant can or bottle that is offered, intended for sale or sold to a consumer and directly contains an infused beverage, and (B) does not include an object or packaging that indirectly contains, or contains in bulk for transportation purposes, an infused beverage;

(8) "Cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

(9) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection;

(10) "Dispensary facility" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

(11) "Food and beverage manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

(12) "Hemp" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-61*l*;

(13) "Hemp producer" means producer, as defined in section 22-61*l*;

(14) "Hemp products" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-61*l*;

(15) "Hybrid retailer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

(16) "Infused beverage" means a beverage that (A) is not an alcoholic beverage, as defined in section 30-1, (B) is intended for human consumption, and (C) contains, or is advertised, labeled or offered for sale as containing, total THC that is not greater than three milligrams per container;

(17) "Infused beverage manufacturer" means a person licensed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to section 21a-425a;

(18) "Legacy infused beverage" means a beverage that (A) is not an alcoholic beverage, as defined in section 30-1, (B) is intended for human consumption, (C) contains, or is advertised, labeled or offered for sale as containing, THC, as defined in section 21a-240, and (D) as of June 30, 2024, is in compliance with (i) the provisions of RERACA, as defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act, and (ii) the policies and procedures issued by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to implement, and any regulations adopted pursuant to, RERACA, as defined in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

(19) "Micro-cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

(20) "Manufacturer hemp product" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-61*l*;

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

(22) "Product manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

(23) "Retailer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by this act; and

(24) "Total THC" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240.

Sec. 18. Section 21a-426 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Cannabis establishment" has the same meaning as provided in

section 21a-420, as amended by this act;

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

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

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

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

[(5)**]** (6) "Manufacturer hemp product" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-61*l*;

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

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

(b) Beginning on January 1, 2025, no person shall sell or offer to sell,

at retail, any moderate-THC hemp product in the state to consumers unless such person is a cannabis establishment or holds a certificate of registration issued by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to this section. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the wholesale or commercial distribution of moderate-THC hemp products for resale.

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

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

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

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

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

(B) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, the commissioner shall not issue a certificate of registration as a moderate-THC hemp product vendor unless the commissioner has determined that the applicant satisfies, or is reasonably likely to satisfy, the

minimum sales threshold established in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision. Each such certificate shall expire annually, and shall allow the moderate-THC hemp product vendor to sell and offer to sell, at retail, hemp flower and moderate-THC hemp products to consumers at such location.

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

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

(2) (A) Each certificate issued pursuant to this section shall be renewable for additional one-year periods. Each moderate-THC hemp product vendor seeking renewal shall submit to the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, a renewal application accompanied by a nonrefundable renewal application fee in the amount of two thousand dollars or, if the moderate-THC hemp product vendor actively holds a manufacturer license, in the amount of one thousand dollars. Such application shall, at a minimum and except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, disclose information sufficient for the commissioner to determine that, during the preceding registration year, at least eighty-

five per cent of the average monthly gross revenue generated at the moderate-THC hemp product vendor's registered retail location was derived from sales, at retail, of moderate-THC hemp products to consumers. Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the commissioner shall not issue a renewal to a moderate-THC hemp product vendor unless the commissioner has determined that the moderate-THC hemp product vendor satisfied such minimum sales threshold.

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

(ii) The commissioner may issue a renewal to a moderate-THC hemp product vendor that satisfies the criteria set forth in subparagraph (B)(i) of this subdivision even if the moderate-THC hemp product vendor did not satisfy the minimum sales threshold established in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

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

(d) No person may act as a moderate-THC hemp product vendor, or represent that such person is a moderate-THC hemp product vendor, unless such person has obtained and actively holds a certificate of registration as a moderate-THC hemp product vendor issued by the

Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to this section.

(e) No cannabis establishment or moderate-THC hemp product vendor, or agent or employee of a cannabis establishment or moderate-THC hemp product vendor, shall sell a moderate-THC hemp product or hemp flower to any individual who is younger than twenty-one years of age. Prior to selling any moderate-THC hemp product or hemp flower to an individual, the cannabis establishment, moderate-THC hemp product vendor, agent or employee shall first verify the individual's age with a valid government-issued driver's license or identity card to establish that such individual is twenty-one years of age or older. If a moderate-THC hemp product vendor sells any moderate-THC hemp product or hemp flower by any means other than in an in-person transaction conducted at the moderate-THC hemp product vendor's registered retail location, including, but not limited to, by way of an Internet web site or mail order, such moderate-THC hemp product vendor shall ensure that the age of the individual who receives such moderate-THC hemp product or hemp flower is verified prior to delivery with a valid government-issued driver's license or identity card to establish that such individual is twenty-one years of age or older.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(l) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, the commissioner shall, prior to adopting such regulations and in order to effectuate the provisions of this section, issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of this section that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies and procedures on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or forty-eight months from July 1, 2024, if such regulations have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under section 4-170.

(m) Following a hearing conducted in accordance with chapter 54, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection may impose an

administrative civil penalty, not to exceed five thousand dollars per violation, and suspend, revoke or place conditions upon any moderate-THC hemp product vendor that violates any provision of this section or any regulation adopted pursuant to subsection (l) of this section. Any administrative civil penalty collected under this subsection shall be deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established in section 21a-8a.

Sec. 19. Subsection (s) of section 22-61m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(s) Any claim of health impacts, medical effects or physical or mental benefits shall be prohibited on any advertising for, labeling of or marketing of manufacturer hemp products or hemp flower, as defined in section 21a-426, as amended by this act, regardless of whether such manufacturer hemp products were manufactured, or hemp flower was cultivated, in this state or another jurisdiction. Any violation of this subsection shall be deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b.

Sec. 20. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) During the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending October 1, 2026, the Department of Consumer Protection shall, not later than the first day of February, May, August and November, submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection. Each report shall contain the following:

(1) For each fiscal quarter, (A) the number of applicants that were selected from the lottery, broken down by license type, (B) the number of provisional licenses that the department issued pursuant to RERACA, broken down by license type, (C) the number of final licenses that the department issued pursuant to RERACA, broken down by

license type and town, and (D) the mechanism by which the department issued each final license pursuant to RERACA, including, but not limited to, by way of the lottery, to equity joint ventures and to cultivators located in disproportionately impacted areas;

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

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

Sec. 21. Section 20 of public act 23-79 is repealed. (*Effective June 30, 2025*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*October 1, 2025*	New section
Sec. 2	*January 1, 2026*	20-627
Sec. 3	*January 1, 2026*	20-633b(j)
Sec. 4	*from passage*	21a-243
Sec. 5	*January 1, 2026*	21a-408c
Sec. 6	*July 1, 2025*	21a-420(1)
Sec. 7	*from passage*	21a-420(2)
Sec. 8	*July 1, 2025*	New section
Sec. 9	*from passage*	21a-420p(e)
Sec. 10	*from passage*	21a-420r(b)
Sec. 11	*from passage*	21a-420s(b)
Sec. 12	*January 1, 2026*	21a-420j(e) and (f)
Sec. 13	*January 1, 2026*	21a-420m(f) to (i)
Sec. 14	*January 1, 2026*	21a-420u(f) to (i)
Sec. 15	*July 1, 2025*	21a-421a
Sec. 16	*from passage*	21a-421ccc(a)
Sec. 17	*October 1, 2025*	21a-425
Sec. 18	*October 1, 2025*	21a-426
Sec. 19	*October 1, 2025*	22-61m(s)
Sec. 20	*July 1, 2025*	New section
Sec. 21	*June 30, 2025*	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) establish additional requirements concerning manufacturer hemp products and hemp flower, (2) require certain sterile compounding pharmacies to submit inspection reports, (3) require the Department of Consumer Protection to adopt regulations, policies and procedures designating additional substances as controlled substances, (4) modify the duration of written certifications for the palliative use of marijuana and authorize certain pharmacists to (A) temporarily extend such certifications, and (B) issue temporary written certifications, (5) modify certain requirements concerning a quarterly report submitted by the department, (6) redefine "backer", (7) establish a temporary cannabis operator license, (8) expand the variety of establishments to which certain cannabis establishments may sell, transport or transfer cannabis, (9) eliminate minimum separation requirements concerning certain equity joint ventures, (10) require additional persons to obtain a key employee license, and (11) redefine "container" for purposes of infused beverages.

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