



Press Release

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Cannabis Control Commission Approves Inaugural Cannabis Rules and Regulations

WARWICK, R.I. — Today, the Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) voted to approve their first rules and regulations specifically governing Rhode Island's adult use cannabis industry.

The rules and regulations were developed over the past year and informed by research and consultation with the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation, the Rhode Island Department of Health, industry stakeholders, the public, and cannabis regulatory agencies across the country. The Cannabis Advisory Board provided recommendations on key topics such as the Social Equity Assistance Program and Fund, and criteria for identifying Rhode Island's Disproportionately Impacted Areas. The CCC also collaborated with the Office of Regulatory Reform and the Office of Management and Budget to review and refine the regulations during the drafting process.

The rules and regulations cover both adult use and medical cannabis in four key parts:

- **Administration, Procedures and Enforcement**
- **Applications, Licensing and Renewals**
- **Operational Requirements for Cannabis Establishments**
- **Caregivers, Medical Home Grows and Personal Cultivation**

Throughout the second half of 2024, the CCC presented its findings on regulatory decisions during open meetings to gather public input. These decisions, which are contained in the regulations, include new packaging and labeling requirements, a hybrid randomized selection process for licensing, a new quality assurance testing program, and Social Equity Assistance Program and Fund details.

"The approval of these regulations represents an important step forward for Rhode Island, ensuring a deliberate, measured, and thoughtful approach to legalized cannabis in our state that benefits both consumers and communities throughout the state," said **Governor Dan McKee**.

"Finalizing these regulations reflects the Commission's commitment to thoughtful, informed policymaking. We've prioritized stakeholder input and best practices to establish a regulatory structure that promotes safety, equity, and transparency," said **Cannabis Control Commission Chair Kim Ahern**.

"Ensuring public safety has been a top priority throughout the development of these

regulations," said **Cannabis Control Commissioner Robert Jacquard**. "We are committed to maintaining strict standards that protect the well-being of Rhode Islanders while supporting a regulated cannabis market."

"These rules and regulations represent a thoughtful approach that balances public interest, equity and transparency," said **Cannabis Control Commissioner Layi Oduyingbo**. "This decision reflects months of collaboration and careful consideration to ensure the regulations serve the needs of all Rhode Islanders."

"We extend our gratitude to the Commission for approving these comprehensive rules and regulations. This achievement reflects the unwavering dedication of our team to developing thoughtful, data-driven recommendations that uphold our cornerstones," said **Michelle Reddish, Cannabis Office Administrator**.

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), the CCC's vote opened the formal process, initiating a public comment period lasting a minimum of 30 days. The rules and regulations are available for public review on both the [Secretary of State website](#) and the [CCC website](#). The Cannabis Control Commission will also host a public comment hearing on Friday, January 24 at 1:00 PM. In accordance with the APA, the CCC will provide responses to all public comments received during the public comment period and may adjust the rules and regulations prior to final adoption.

The Cannabis Control Commission was established by the Rhode Island Cannabis Act, which legalized adult-use cannabis in the state and was signed into law by Governor Dan McKee on May 25, 2022. The Cannabis Control Commission was appointed in summer, 2023. The CCC is responsible for overseeing the regulation, licensing, enforcement, and control of regulated cannabis in the State of Rhode Island and is authorized to exercise all powers necessary for the implementation, administration and enforcement of cannabis regulation and policy for both adult use and medical cannabis.

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