



Press Release

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Rhode Island's New Cannabis Regulations Take Effect Today

Commission Launches Survey to Gauge Interest in Cannabis Retail Licenses

WARWICK, R.I. — Today marks the official implementation of Rhode Island's finalized cannabis regulations, a major milestone in the state's effort to establish a transparent, equitable, and safe adult-use cannabis market.

The Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) has outlined a comprehensive set of rules guiding everything from business licensing and product testing to packaging standards and public safety requirements. These regulations, which take effect today, were developed through extensive stakeholder engagement and public input over the past year.

"Today's milestone is the result of intentional planning, collaboration, and a commitment to public trust. Our finalized regulations lay a strong foundation for a cannabis industry that is safe, equitable, and transparent. This is not the end of the process, but the beginning of our ongoing commitment to steward this industry with fairness, transparency, and care," said **Commission Chair Kim Ahern**.

Key changes and updates include:

- Updated social equity provisions to support impacted communities
- Enhanced consumer protections and labeling requirements
- Environmental and safety standards for cultivation and processing
- Enhanced child safety protections, including restrictions on packaging and labeling to prevent appeal to minors

The regulations are intended not only to govern the emerging market but also to promote long-term economic development, public safety, and equitable opportunity. Commissioners reflected on the significance of this step:

"I feel that the regulations that we have adopted are pro-business, and pro-consumer safety, both of which are essential to the success of this industry", said **Commissioner Robert Jacquard**.

"This is a defining moment for cannabis policy in Rhode Island. These rules aren't just about regulation, they're about responsibility, inclusion, and creating lasting economic impact," added **Commissioner Layi Oduyingbo**.

Rhode Island joins a growing number of states that have moved to regulate adult-use cannabis in a way that prioritizes public health, equity, and economic opportunity. By

implementing these regulations, the Commission is working to balance innovation and access with critical safeguards for consumers and communities alike.

In conjunction with the launch, the Commission is inviting Rhode Islanders, particularly prospective retail license applicants, to participate in a short public survey. The survey is designed to gauge interest in future retail cannabis licenses and to better understand what types of licenses respondents are most interested in pursuing.

“Our goal is to make sure the public’s voice remains central as the market evolves,” said Cannabis Office **Administrator Michelle Reddish**. “This survey will help guide our outreach and education efforts in the months ahead.”

The survey is available now at <https://bit.ly/3YlrRPc> and will remain open through May 30, 2025.

Businesses and individuals seeking more information can access a full summary of the regulations at www.ccc.ri.gov.

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About the Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission

The Cannabis Control Commission is an independent regulatory body established under the Rhode Island Cannabis Act of 2022. The CCC is responsible for licensing, regulation, and enforcement of both adult-use and medical cannabis in the state. With the transition from the Department of Business Regulation now complete, the newly formed Cannabis Office serves as the operational arm of the Commission, supporting the safe, equitable, and effective regulation of cannabis in Rhode Island.



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