



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

560 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

## **Cannabis Control Commission**

### **Open Meeting Minutes**

**DATE:** Friday, November 14, 2025

**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Public Utilities Commission  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02886

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioner Robert B. Jacquard, Esq.  
Commissioner Olayiwola Oduyingbo, Esq.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michelle Reddish, Administrator, Cannabis Office  
Kelsey McQueeney, Administrative Officer, Cannabis Control  
Commission  
Carla Aveledo, Esq., Chief of Policy, Cannabis  
Control Commission  
Katelyn Garside, Project Services Coordinator, Cannabis Control  
Commission  
Charon Rose, Chief of Public Affairs, Cannabis Control  
Commission  
Erica Ferrelli, Chief Regulatory Officer, Cannabis Office  
Suzanna Skolnik, Senior Legal Counsel, Cannabis Office

Commissioner Jacquard called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The first item of business was:

**Motion to approve the minutes of the Open Session Meeting held on October 20,**

**2025.**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Oduyingbo and duly seconded by Commissioner Jacquard, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Open Session Meeting held on October 20, 2025.

The next item of business was:

**Public Comment**

- Commissioner Oduyingbo acknowledged that the Commission currently has two sitting Commissioners following the resignation of former Chair Kim Ahern. He expressed gratitude for Chair Ahern’s service and noted that the remaining Commissioners are fully prepared to continue the Commission’s work.

6 people gave public comment, which included:

- Expressed concern that, despite the industry’s maturation, many consumers still struggle to understand product potency, dosage, and product types, which may lead to misuse, confusion, and reluctance to engage with licensed operators.
- Raised concern that some applicants may secure a special use permit without realizing that the financial institution holding debt on the property—whether leased or owned—prohibits cannabis-related operations, creating significant challenges for those who purchase or rent property unaware of these restrictions.
- Expressed concern that the “sold-by” labeling requirement is causing delays for cultivators and manufacturers by forcing them to create retailer-specific labels for each order, which is time-consuming, costly, and generates unnecessary waste.
- Suggested that the Cannabis Office avoid requiring total cannabinoid or Delta-8 THC test results on packaging due to limited space, and expressed hope that future regulations will align with new federal standards, favoring THC labeling per container rather than per serving.
- Expressed disappointment upon seeing a letter signed by the 20 attorneys general, including Rhode Island’s, that stated that the hemp market nationwide was not only unregulated but marketed toward children, and we know very clearly that is not the case in Rhode Island.
- A request for a meeting with one of the Commissioners.

The next item of business was:

**Review, discussion, and potential vote on the certification of approved Social Equity Applicants following the Social Equity Applicant certification process.**

- Chief of Policy, Carla Aveledo, provided background on the Social Equity Applicant Status Certification process, which included that Commission staff, in

partnership with third-party vendor Creative Services Inc. (CSI), completed the Social Equity Applicant Status Certification process and provided the Commission with a list of identified applicants who met the eligibility criteria for their review.

- Explained that of the 94 total applicants, 36 were identified as proposed social equity applicants based on their submission of sufficient and verifiable documentation that met the eligibility criteria that they applied under, noting that each individual application was thoroughly reviewed by CSI and Commission staff.
- Explained that following the Commission vote, those approved social equity applicants would be eligible to apply for a social equity retail license, and may also apply for other retail license types, as well as future grant funding from the Social Equity Assistance Program and Fund once selected for licensure.
- Expressed appreciation to CSI for their assistance and noted that all applicants would receive written notification as to whether they were certified or not via the Commission's social equity email later today.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Jacquard and duly seconded by Commissioner Oduyingbo, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the applicants who have been identified as successfully completing the Commission's certification process as approved and certify them as social equity applicants.

The next item of business was:

**An update on the status of the Zone 3 Compassion Center license by Cannabis Office Administrator Michelle Reddish, which included:**

- That Green Wave was issued a Compassion Center license on October 21, 2025, in accordance with the June 23rd consent agreement, and after paying the licensing fee and submitting a certificate of occupancy for the site location.
- Explained that GreenWave has until January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, to become fully operational per the Commission's regulations.
- Explained that GreenWave must submit the hybrid authorization application to be allowed to sell adult-use products, which is anticipated to be done soon.

The next item of business was:

**Review, discussion and potential vote on a petition for rulemaking pursuant to 560-RICR-10-05-1.31(C), seeking amendment to 560-RICR-10-10-2.7.2(E)(2) of the Commission's regulations, to remove the requirement that retail-ready cannabis product packaging be labeled with the business name and license number of the cannabis establishment selling the product.**

- Cannabis Office Senior Legal Counsel, Suzannah Skolnik, explained that on November 7, 2025, the Commission received email correspondence from Kevin Hoffman, managing member of Firebrand LLC, license number CV0076 in North Kingstown, requesting that the regulation requiring that retail-ready cannabis packaging display the business name and license number of the retail location selling the product be removed.
- The request will be treated as a petition for rulemaking, and the Commissioners had been provided with Mr. Hoffman’s petition and related research in advance of the meeting to inform their discussion and questions.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Jacquard and duly seconded by Commissioner Oduyingbo, it was unanimously

VOTED: To initiate rulemaking to amend 560-RICR-10-10-2.7.2(E)(2) of the Commission’s regulations, to remove the requirement that retail-ready cannabis product packaging be labeled with the business name and license number of the cannabis establishment selling the product.

The next item of business was:

**Review, discussion, and potential vote to approve the proposed final regulation entitled “Rhode Island Industrial Hemp Program,” 560-RICR-10-20-1 and authorize Commission staff to file the final regulation with the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with the APA.**

- Chief of Policy Carla Aveledo explained that, following the July Commission meeting, existing hemp regulations were promulgated as an emergency rule to transition authority from the Department of Business Regulation (DBR) to the Commission, which currently remain in effect.
- For the proposed rule, the public comment period closed on October 20<sup>th</sup>, with 231 individual comments received.
- At this time, no changes are being made to the proposed regulation based on the comments received, and staff will continue monitoring federal hemp legislation to ensure compliance; all public comments received were provided to the working group for the legislatively mandated study on intoxicating hemp products to assess for future regulatory and statutory changes.
- The proposed final regulation implements existing statutory and regulatory requirements without adding new burdens or costs, and the Commission was asked to vote to allow staff to finalize and file the proposed final rule with the Secretary of State’s Office.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Jacquard and duly seconded by Commissioner Oduyingbo, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the proposed final regulation entitled “Rhode Island Industrial Hemp Program,” 560-RICR-10-20-1 and authorize Commission staff to

file the final regulation with the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with the APA.

The next item of business was:

**Executive Session**

At 1:35 p.m., upon motion made by Commissioner Jacquard and duly seconded by Commissioner Oduyingbo it was unanimously voted:

**To go into Executive Session, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1), for the purpose of:**

- a. Vote to approve minutes of the Executive Session held on September 12, 2025, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1).
- b. Review, discussion, and potential vote on the Commission's hiring of two Chief Public Protection Inspectors, pursuant to R.I. Gen Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1).

The next item of business was:

**Motion to return to Open Session.**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Jacquard and duly seconded by Commissioner Oduyingbo, it was unanimously

VOTED: To return to Open Session at 1:42 p.m.

The next item of business was:

**Motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session on November 14, 2025.**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Jacquard and duly seconded by Commissioner Oduyingbo, it was unanimously

VOTED: To seal the minutes of the Executive Session on November 14, 2025.

The next item of business was:

**Report out on actions and votes taken in Executive Session, which included:**

Commissioner Jacquard reported the following Commission action(s):

- a. Voted to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on September 12, 2025, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1).

- b. Voted to allow Administrator Reddish to extend employment offers to the two recommended candidates for the two Chief Public Protection Inspectors positions, pursuant to R.I. Gen Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1).

Adjournment:

Upon motion made by Commissioner Jacquard and duly seconded by Commissioner Oduyingbo, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: **TBD.**