



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

560 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

## **Cannabis Control Commission**

### **Open Meeting Minutes**

**DATE:** Friday, February 13, 2026

**TIME:** 2:00 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  
Mariana Ormonde, Chief of Legal Services, Cannabis Control  
Commission  
Kelsey McQueeney, Chief Implementation Aide, Cannabis Control  
Commission  
Carla Aveledo, Esq., Chief of Policy, Cannabis  
Control Commission  
Katelyn Garside, Project Coordinator, Cannabis Control  
Commission  
Charon Rose, Chief of Public Affairs, Cannabis Control  
Commission  
Kelly Verte, Chief Financial Officer, 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 2:05 p.m.

- Commissioner Oduyingbo noted that agenda items E and F would be taken out of order to allow public comment to occur before the commissioner’s review and discussion of agenda item E.
- Commissioner Jacquard stated that agenda item E was included on the agenda due to stakeholder concerns that simultaneous market entry of many new licensees could cause significant cannabis price declines and impact overall profitability for existing and new licensees.

The first item of business was:

**Motion to approve the minutes of the Open Session Meeting held on January 16, 2026.**

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

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Open Session Meeting held on January 16, 2026.

The next item of business was:

**Review, discussion and potential vote to approve the proposed final regulation entitled “Operational Requirements for Cannabis Establishments,” 560-RICR-10-10-2, and authorize Commission staff to file the final regulation with the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with the APA.**

- Chief of Legal Services reported that the Commission granted a November 7, 2025 petition to remove a requirement set forth in 560-RICR-10-10-2.7.2(E)(2) that requires retail-ready cannabis packaging be labeled with the business name and license number of the retail location selling the product, noting that the requirement is duplicative given existing seed-to-sale tracking system.
- Counsel explained that the proposed final regulation was submitted for public comment from December 18, 2025, to January 26, 2026, during which two comments were received and no further changes were made to the proposed regulation.
- Counsel explained that the proposed final regulation reduces regulatory burden, imposes no additional costs on licensees, and has been approved by the Office of Regulatory Review.
- Counsel recommended that the Commission vote to approve the proposed final regulation to allow staff to complete the regulatory process.

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

VOTED: To approve the proposed final regulation entitled “Operational Requirements for Cannabis Establishments,” 560-RICR-10-10-2, 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:

**Review, discussion and potential vote on the pending variance request of St. Jude's Compassion, LLC, Class B cultivation license (CV0019), to transfer full ownership interests to new owner, Arthur Bradford (Imagine, LLC).**

- Commission counsel summarized that on January 6, 2026, St. Jude Compassion LLC submitted a change of ownership variance request to transfer full ownership to Arthur Bradford of Imagine, LLC. Counsel stated that the Cannabis Office had completed its review of the request and recommended approval of the variance request, noting that all required information had been received. Counsel recommended that the Commission vote to conditionally approve the transfer, pending the satisfactory completion of any outstanding items and inspections.

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

VOTED: To approve the pending variance request of St. Jude's Compassion, LLC, Class B cultivation license (CV0019), to transfer full ownership interests to new owner, Arthur Bradford (Imagine, LLC), pending the satisfactory completion of any outstanding items and inspections.

The next item of business was:

**Public Comment**

10 people gave public comment, which included:

- Noted concerns about multiple retail license applications submitted from the same multi-unit property, questioning whether such applicants satisfy site control application requirements and urging the Commission to reject those applications to ensure fairness.
- Several commenters stated that the retail licensing process should not be delayed and that the awarding of licenses should not be staggered, adding that any significant deviation from current number of licenses to be issued should be addressed by the General Assembly.
- Expressed concern about the pace of market expansion, noting that existing retailers already face competition from the oversaturated Massachusetts market and questioned the need for 24 additional stores, particularly if those stores will be located close together.
- Recommendation that the Commission conduct a demand analysis, addressing and reviewing high expansion-to-population and performance data, thereby ensuring regulatory capacity can scale with market growth.

- Noted that market research comparing Rhode Island to states such as Colorado and Massachusetts on a per-capita basis indicates the state is missing out on approximately \$28 million in potential tax revenue.
- Noted that a slow license rollout would harm both existing cultivators and applicants who have already submitted Adult Use retail license applications.
- Expressed frustration with the lack of a clear timeline for the license selection process, claiming that this undermines transparency and is unreasonable and unfair to adult-use retail applicants who are incurring ongoing rental costs without knowing how long they will be required to wait before the selection process occurs.
- Orally submitted a petition for rulemaking, requesting that the Commission amend its regulations to allow certain hemp products to contain up to 1% total THC by dry weight and permit hemp tinctures containing up to 100 milligrams of total THC per package, asserting that these suggested changes are based on regional regulatory models.
- Encouraged the Commission to ensure that it has all necessary resources available when evaluating workers' cooperative license applications, noting that this is a unique and first-in-the-nation license type.

The next item of business was:

**Review, discussion and potential vote regarding the Adult-Use retail license selection process, including recent considerations regarding license distribution.**

- Administrator Reddish reported that 97 applications remain pending and noted the upcoming March 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline for applicants to submit evidence of final zoning approval, after which time the completeness of pending applications can be determined.
- Explained that updated application metrics would be presented at the next meeting.
- Noted that the Cannabis Office is conducting a thorough statutory and regulatory review of all applications while considering and addressing issues raised during the process.
- Discussed stakeholder feedback received regarding litigation-related impacts on licensing timelines and application criteria, as well as concerns about the anticipated structure of the selection process and the effect of issuing up to 24 retail cannabis licenses all at one time.
- Explained that based on January 2025 application review metrics, up to 20 retail cannabis licenses may be issued, though this may change as application review continues.
- Noted that it has been suggested that a phased rollout may be warranted to allow for the periodic monitoring of market conditions and cited other states where rapid expansion may have contributed to market instability.

Following Administrator Reddish's remarks, discussion amongst the Commissioners included:

- Commissioner Oduyingbo expressed appreciation for holding public comment before the agenda item discussion, and noted that many people weighed in that there was currently sufficient demand for cannabis to support many new retailers opening in short succession, but adding that issues related to market uncertainty or instability are important for the Commission to consider.
- Commissioner Jacquard stated that the agenda item was prompted by concerns of multiple stakeholders and that the issue of a staggered license rollout merits careful evaluation by the Commission, noting that stakeholders do not want to enter a market with low chances of retail success.
- Commissioner Jacquard noted that, under any future scenario, the Commission should consider issuing a substantial number of licenses at any one time, rather than only one or two, and apologized if the wording of the agenda item caused any unnecessary alarm.
- Commissioner Jacquard expressed appreciation for continuing feedback from stakeholders and the public.

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

VOTED: To table the agenda item to a future agenda item as needed.

The next item of business was:

### **Executive Session**

At 2:58 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 January 16, 2026, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1).
- b. Update and discussion on pending litigation in *John Kenney v. Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission, et al.*, 25-1173, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2).
- c. Update and discussion on pending litigation in *Justyna Jensen v. Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission, et al.*, 25-1132, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2).
- d. Update and discussion on pending litigation in *Justin Palmore v. Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission, et al.*, 25-00622, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2).

- e. Update and discussion on pending litigation in *Rhode Island Compassion Center, Inc. v. Ahern, et al.*, PC-2025-03908, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2).

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 3:17 p.m.

The next item of business was:

**Motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session on February 13, 2026.**

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

VOTED: To seal the minutes of the Executive Session on February 13, 2026.

The next item of business was:

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

Commissioner Oduyingbo reported the following Commission action(s):

- a. Vote to approve minutes of the Executive Session held on February 13, 2026, 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 3:18 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: **March 20, 2026.**