

# Study on Hemp-Derived THC Infused Beverages

# Study on Hemp-Derived THC Infused Beverages

## Purpose of Study

- **Legislative Mandate:** Prepared in response to a joint resolution passed by the General Assembly during the 2025 legislative session.
  - **Commission Charge:** The Cannabis Control Commission will develop recommendations to regulate and license hemp-derived beverages.
  - **Scope of Review:** Includes dosage limits, packaging and labeling standards, licensing conditions, age requirements, and safeguards to prevent underage access.
  - **Interagency Consultation:** Policy discussions with RIDOH, the Division of Taxation, DBR, and BHDDH to assess public health, enforcement, and regulatory feasibility.
  - **Comparative Analysis:** Reviews regulatory approaches adopted in other states governing ingestible hemp products.
-

# Study on Hemp-Derived THC Infused Beverages

Regulatory Category	Rhode Island	Massachusetts	Connecticut	Minnesota
Retail Availability	Permitted with strict limits	Cannabis dispensaries only	Permitted	Permitted
THC Per Serving	1 mg	Cannabis rules apply	3 mg per container	5 mg
THC Per Package	5 mg	Cannabis rules apply	3 mg per container	10 mg
Packaging	Child-resistant, opaque	Cannabis standards	Child-resistant, warning symbol	Child-resistant
Labeling	Detailed THC disclosure	MDAR warning labeling	Warning symbol and COA	THC disclosure and lot ID
Age Restriction	21+	21+	21+	21+
Licensing	CCC-licensed retailers	Licensed dispensaries	Licensed manufacturers/vendors	OCM licensing
Testing	Third-party COA required	Cannabis testing	Batch testing	Licensed lab testing
Taxes	7%	10.75% excise tax 6.25% sales tax 3% local tax	\$1 per can	15% state cannabis gross receipts tax 6.875% state sales tax Varying local sales tax

# Recommendations



## Study on Hemp-Derived THC Infused Beverages

### Dosage Limits

- The Commission recommends using the current definition of THC pursuant to 560-RICR-10-20-1.5(LL).
- Establish a standard 1 mg per container THC limit for all hemp-derived THC beverages sold in a can, pouch, or in a sealed bottle.

## Study on Hemp-Derived THC Infused Beverages

### Packaging

- All hemp-derived THC beverages sold in a can, pouch or sealed bottle should not be permitted, even if the can or bottle is certified child-resistant and resealable, to contain multiple servings.
  - All hemp-derived THC beverages must be in compliant packaged form and labeled prior to being offered for sale to a consumer and cannot be combined with alcohol.
  - Removal of the current requirement that packaging must be opaque and light resistant which is consistent with the Commission's current regulations for cannabis packaging.
-

## Study on Hemp-Derived THC Infused Beverages

### Labeling

- Addition of a symbol to every package that indicates the product contains THC and/or has intoxicating/psychoactive effects and a secondary warning that indicates these products are “Not Safe for Kids”.
- Alignment of warnings required for hemp-derived THC beverages with those required for cannabis which include warnings regarding operating motor vehicles, breastfeeding, or delayed onset on effects.

## Study on Hemp-Derived THC Infused Beverages

### Licensing Conditions

- Continuation of the current prohibition for establishments that hold a Class B, C, D, F-1, or B-M onsite liquor license from being issued a license from the Commission permitting them to sell hemp-derived THC beverages.
    - This prohibition would not apply to Class A liquor license holders which include liquor stores or establishments that possess a cannabis Hybrid-Retail, or Adult-Use Retail license.
  - Creation of a new standalone license type or add-on license to better align with the specific product type that retailers are selling to be named hemp-derived THC beverage retail license or hemp-derived consumable THC retail license, which would go into effect following updated regulations to the Hemp Program.
-

## Study on Hemp-Derived THC Infused Beverages

# Age Restrictions and Retail Safeguards

- Requirement that only consumers 21 years of age or older be permitted to purchase hemp-derived THC beverages.
    - Retailers must train employees to properly check and validate government identification.
  - Every retail license holder must display a sign at the counter/check-out stating that hemp-derived THC beverages are for consumers 21 years of age or older.
  - Any advertisement for hemp-derived THC beverages contain “Must be 21 years of age or older to purchase”.
  - Must have universal symbol that should appear on all packages indicating the product has THC/intoxicating effects should also be required to be on any cooler, shelf, or space that holds and/or displays these beverages for sale to a consumer.
-

## Study on Hemp-Derived THC Infused Beverages

### Product Testing

- Requirement that out of state testing facilities that test hemp-derived THC beverages sold in Rhode Island hold ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation and be registered with the Rhode Island Department of Health which may include a registration fee.
- Requirement of all hemp-derived THC beverages be tested for pesticides, heavy metals, residual solvents, microbiological contaminants and cannabinoid profile, most of which are already required in the current hemp regulations and are required for all cannabis products sold in Rhode Island.

## Study on Hemp-Derived THC Infused Beverages

### Tax Restructuring

- Hemp-derived THC beverages be subject to a taxation rate equivalent to thirteen percent (13%) of the wholesale cost of such beverages sold, or held for sale, within Rhode Island.
  - The tax shall be imposed upon and remitted by licensed distributors.
  - Hemp-derived THC beverages manufactured outside of RI cannot be sold or distributed within the state unless they are sold or distributed by a licensed distributor.
  - Further, the standard state retail sales tax of seven percent (7%) would be applied to consumers. This recommendation is based on the Commission's intended goal to regulate hemp-derived THC beverages akin to cannabis products.
-

## Study on Hemp-Derived THC Infused Beverages

### Licensing Fees

- Establishment of a revised license fee structure for hemp-derived THC beverage retailers that reflects the administrative, compliance, and enforcement costs associated with regulating these products.
    - Regulation of this market requires licensing administration, routine inspections of licensed establishments, investigation of unlicensed sales, and coordination with the Division of Taxation and other enforcement partners.
  - The Commission recommends that license fees be set at a level sufficient to cover these regulatory costs so that state agencies are not subsidizing private commercial activity.
  - The Commission notes that the current annual license fee of \$500 is unlikely to cover the anticipated costs associated with expanded licensing, compliance oversight, and enforcement.
-

# Cannabis Control Commission

Website: <https://ccc.ri.gov/>

Email: [cccinquiry@ccc.ri.gov](mailto:cccinquiry@ccc.ri.gov)

Phone: 401-921-3010

