

General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6699

January Session, 2023



AN ACT CONCERNING CANNABIS REGULATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. Section 21a-420 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):
- 3 As used in RERACA, unless the context otherwise requires:
- 4 (1) "Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis
- 5 Act" or "RERACA" means this section, sections 2-56j, 7-294kk, 7-294ll,
- 6 12-330*ll* to 12-330nn, inclusive, 14-227p, 21a-278b, as amended by this
- 7 <u>act</u>, 21a-278c, 21a-279c, 21a-279d, 21a-420a to [21a-420i] <u>21a-420i</u>,
- 8 inclusive, as amended by this act, 21a-420l to 21a-421r, inclusive, 21a-
- 9 421aa to 21a-421ff, inclusive, 21a-421aaa to [21a-421ggg] 21a-421hhh,
- 10 inclusive, 21a-422 to 21a-422c, inclusive, 21a-422e to 21a-422g, inclusive,
- 21a-422j to 21a-422s, inclusive, 22-61n, 23-4b, 47a-9a, 53-247a, 53a-213a,
- 12 53a-213b, 54-33p, 54-56q, 54-56r, 54-125k and 54-142u, sections 23, 60, 63
- to 65, inclusive, 124, 144 and 165 of public act 21-1 of the June special
- session, and the amendments in public act 21-1 of the June special
- 15 session to sections 7-148, 10-221, 12-30a, 12-35b, 12-412, 12-650, 12-704d,
- 16 14-44k, 14-111e, 14-227a to 14-227c, inclusive, 14-227j, 15-140q, 15-140r,
- 17 18-100h, 19a-342, 19a-342a, 21a-267, 21a-277, 21a-279, 21a-279a, 21a-408
- 18 to 21a-408f, inclusive, 21a-408h to 21a-408p, inclusive, 21a-408r to 21a-

- 408v, inclusive, 30-89a, 31-40q, 32-39, 46b-120, 51-164n, 53-394, 53a-39c,
 54-1m, 54-33g, 54-41b, 54-56e, 54-56g, 54-56i, 54-56k, 54-56n, 54-63d, 5466a [,] and 54-142e, [21a-421hhh and 21a-420i] and section 2 of this act;
 - (2) "Backer" means any individual with a direct or indirect financial interest in a cannabis establishment. "Backer" does not include an individual with an investment interest in a cannabis establishment if (A) the interest held by such individual and such individual's spouse, parent or child, in the aggregate, does not exceed five per cent of the total ownership or interest rights in such cannabis establishment, and (B) such individual does not participate directly or indirectly in the control, management or operation of the cannabis establishment;
 - (3) "Cannabis" means marijuana, as defined in section 21a-240;
 - (4) "Cannabis establishment" means a producer, dispensary facility, cultivator, micro-cultivator, retailer, hybrid retailer, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer, product packager, delivery service or transporter;
 - (5) "Cannabis flower" means the flower, including abnormal and immature flowers, of a plant of the genus cannabis that has been harvested, dried, [and] cured, chopped or ground, and prior to any processing whereby the flower material is transformed into a cannabis product. "Cannabis flower" does not include (A) the leaves or stem of such plant, or (B) hemp, as defined in section 22-61*l*;
 - (6) "Cannabis trim" means all parts, including abnormal or immature parts, of a plant of the genus cannabis, other than cannabis flower, that have been harvested, dried and cured, and prior to any processing whereby the plant material is transformed into a cannabis product. "Cannabis trim" does not include hemp, as defined in section 22-61*l*;
 - (7) "Cannabis product" means cannabis, intended for use or consumption, that is in the form of (A) a cannabis concentrate, or (B) a product that contains cannabis [, which may be combined with other ingredients, and is intended for use or consumption] and at least one

- other ingredient. "Cannabis product" does not include [the raw cannabisplant] cannabis flower;
- 52 (8) "Cannabis concentrate" means any form of concentration, 53 including, but not limited to, extracts, oils, tinctures, shatter and waxes, 54 that is extracted from cannabis;
- 55 (9) "Cannabis-type substances" have the same meaning as 56 "marijuana", as defined in section 21a-240;
- 57 (10) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer 58 Protection and includes any designee of the commissioner;
- 59 (11) "Consumer" means an individual who is twenty-one years of age 60 or older;
- 61 (12) "Cultivation" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-62 408;
- (13) "Cultivator" means a person that is licensed to engage in the cultivation, growing and propagation of the cannabis plant at an establishment with not less than fifteen thousand square feet of grow space;
- 67 (14) "Delivery service" means a person that is licensed to deliver 68 cannabis from (A) micro-cultivators, retailers and hybrid retailers to 69 consumers and research program subjects, and (B) hybrid retailers and 70 dispensary facilities to qualifying patients, caregivers and research 71 program subjects, as defined in section 21a-408, or to hospices or other 72 inpatient care facilities licensed by the Department of Public Health 73 pursuant to chapter 368v that have a protocol for the handling and 74 distribution of cannabis that has been approved by the department, or a 75 combination thereof;
- 76 (15) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection;
- 77 (16) "Dispensary facility" means a place of business where cannabis

- may be dispensed, sold or distributed in accordance with chapter 420f and any regulations adopted [thereunder] <u>pursuant to said chapter</u>, to qualifying patients and caregivers, and to which the department has issued a dispensary facility license [under] <u>pursuant to</u> chapter 420f and any regulations adopted [thereunder] <u>pursuant to said chapter</u>;
 - (17) "Disproportionately impacted area" means a United States census tract in the state that has, as determined by the Social Equity Council under section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, (A) a historical conviction rate for drug-related offenses greater than one-tenth, or (B) an unemployment rate greater than ten per cent;
- 88 (18) "Disqualifying conviction" means a conviction within the last ten 89 years which has not been the subject of an absolute pardon under the 90 provisions of section 54-130a, or an equivalent pardon process under the 91 laws of another state or the federal government, for an offense under (A) 92 section 53a-276, 53a-277 or 53a-278; (B) section 53a-291, 53a-292 or 53a-93 293; (C) section 53a-215; (D) section 53a-138 or 53a-139; (E) section 53a-94 142a; (F) sections 53a-147 to 53a-162, inclusive; (G) sections 53a-125c to 95 53a-125f, inclusive; (H) section 53a-129b, 53a-129c or 53a-129d; (I) 96 subsection (b) of section 12-737; (J) section 53a-48 or 53a-49, if the offense 97 which is attempted or is an object of the conspiracy is an offense under 98 the statutes listed in subparagraphs (A) to (I), inclusive, of this 99 subdivision; or (K) the law of any other state or of the federal 100 government, if the offense on which such conviction is based is defined 101 by elements that substantially include the elements of an offense under 102 the statutes listed in subparagraphs (A) to (J), inclusive, of this 103 subdivision;
 - (19) "Dispensary technician" means an individual who has had an active pharmacy technician or dispensary technician registration in this state within the past five years, is affiliated with a dispensary facility or hybrid retailer and is registered with the department in accordance with chapter 420f and any regulations adopted [thereunder] <u>pursuant to said chapter</u>;

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- (20) "Edible cannabis product" means a cannabis product, including,
 but not limited to, a liquid, which may be combined with other
 ingredients and is intended for human consumption, but does not
 include raw cannabis plant material;
 - [(20)] (21) "Employee" means any person who is not a backer, but is a member of the board of a company with an ownership interest in a cannabis establishment, and any person employed by a cannabis establishment or who otherwise has access to such establishment or the vehicles used to transport cannabis, including, but not limited to, an independent contractor who has routine access to the premises of such establishment or to the cannabis handled by such establishment;
 - [(21)] (22) "Equity" and "equitable" means efforts, regulations, policies, programs, standards, processes and any other functions of government or principles of law and governance intended to: (A) Identify and remedy past and present patterns of discrimination and disparities of race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation; (B) ensure that such patterns of discrimination and disparities, whether intentional or unintentional, are neither reinforced nor perpetuated; and (C) prevent the emergence and persistence of foreseeable future patterns of discrimination or disparities of race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation;
 - [(22)] (23) "Equity joint venture" means a business entity that is at least fifty per cent owned and controlled by an individual or individuals, or such applicant is an individual, who meets the criteria of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(48)] (49) of this section;
 - [(23)] (24) "Extract" means the preparation, compounding, conversion or processing of cannabis, either directly or indirectly by extraction or independently by means of chemical synthesis, or by a combination of extraction and chemical synthesis to produce a cannabis concentrate;
- [(24)] (25) "Financial interest" means any right to, ownership, an investment or a compensation arrangement with another person,

- directly, through business, investment or family. "Financial interest" does not include ownership of investment securities in a publicly-held corporation that is traded on a national exchange or over-the-counter market, provided the investment securities held by such person and such person's spouse, parent or child, in the aggregate, do not exceed one-half of one per cent of the total number of shares issued by the corporation;
- [(25)] (26) "Food and beverage manufacturer" means a person that is licensed to own and operate a place of business that acquires cannabis and creates food and beverages;
- 151 [(26)] (27) "Grow space" means the portion of a premises owned and 152 controlled by a producer, cultivator or micro-cultivator that is utilized 153 for the cultivation, growing or propagation of the cannabis plant, and 154 contains cannabis plants in an active stage of growth, measured starting 155 from the outermost wall of the room containing cannabis plants and 156 continuing around the outside of the room. "Grow space" does not 157 include space used to cure, process, store harvested cannabis or 158 manufacture cannabis once the cannabis has been harvested;
- [(27)] (28) "Historical conviction count for drug-related offenses" means, for a given area, the number of convictions of residents of such area (A) for violations of sections 21a-267, 21a-277, 21a-278, 21a-279 and 21a-279a, and (B) who were arrested for such violations between January 1, 1982, and December 31, 2020, inclusive, where such arrest was recorded in databases maintained by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection;
 - [(28)] (29) "Historical conviction rate for drug-related offenses" means, for a given area, the historical conviction count for drug-related offenses divided by the population of such area, as determined by the five-year estimates of the most recent American Community Survey conducted by the United States Census Bureau;
- [(29)] (30) "Hybrid retailer" means a person that is licensed to

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172 purchase cannabis and sell cannabis and medical marijuana products;

- [(30)] (31) "Key employee" means an employee with the following management position or an equivalent title within a cannabis establishment: (A) President or chief officer, who is the top ranking individual at the cannabis establishment and is responsible for all staff and overall direction of business operations; (B) financial manager, who is the individual who reports to the president or chief officer and who is generally responsible for oversight of the financial operations of the cannabis establishment, including, but not limited to, revenue generation, distributions, tax compliance and budget implementation; or (C) compliance manager, who is the individual who reports to the president or chief officer and who is generally responsible for ensuring the cannabis establishment complies with all laws, regulations and requirements related to the operation of the cannabis establishment;
- [(31)] (32) "Laboratory" means a laboratory located in the state that is licensed by the department to provide analysis of cannabis that meets the licensure requirements set forth in section 21a-246;
- [(32)] (33) "Laboratory employee" means an individual who is registered as a laboratory employee pursuant to section 21a-408r;
 - [(33)] (34) "Labor peace agreement" means an agreement between a cannabis establishment and a bona fide labor organization under section 21a-421d, as amended by this act, pursuant to which the owners and management of the cannabis establishment agree not to lock out employees and that prohibits the bona fide labor organization from engaging in picketing, work stoppages or boycotts against the cannabis establishment;
 - [(34)] (35) "Manufacture" means to add or incorporate cannabis into other products or ingredients or create a cannabis product;
- [(35)] (36) "Medical marijuana product" means cannabis that may be exclusively sold to qualifying patients and caregivers by dispensary facilities and hybrid retailers and which are designated by the

- commissioner as reserved for sale to qualifying patients and caregivers and published on the department's Internet web site;
- [(36)] (37) "Micro-cultivator" means a person licensed to engage in the cultivation, growing and propagation of the cannabis plant at an establishment containing not less than two thousand square feet and not more than ten thousand square feet of grow space, prior to any expansion authorized by the commissioner;
- [(37)] (38) "Municipality" means any town, city or borough, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and borough;
- [(38)] (39) "Paraphernalia" means drug paraphernalia, as defined in section 21a-240;
- [(39)] (40) "Person" means an individual, partnership, limited liability company, society, association, joint stock company, corporation, estate, receiver, trustee, assignee, referee or any other legal entity and any other person acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity, whether appointed by a court or otherwise, and any combination thereof;
- [(40)] (41) "Producer" means a person that is licensed as a producer pursuant to section 21a-408i and any regulations adopted [thereunder] pursuant to said section;
- [(41)] (42) "Product manufacturer" means a person that is licensed to obtain cannabis, extract and manufacture products exclusive to such license type;
- [(42)] (43) "Product packager" means a person that is licensed to package and label cannabis;
- [(43)] (44) "Qualifying patient" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408;
- [(44)] (45) "Research program" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408;

- 231 [(45)] (46) "Retailer" means a person, excluding a dispensary facility
- 232 and hybrid retailer, that is licensed to purchase cannabis from
- 233 producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product manufacturers and
- 234 food and beverage manufacturers and to sell cannabis to consumers and
- 235 research programs;
- 236 [(46)] (47) "Sale" or "sell" has the same meaning as provided in section
- 237 21a-240;
- 238 [(47)] (48) "Social Equity Council" or "council" means the council
- 239 established under section 21a-420d, as amended by this act;
- 240 [(48)] (49) "Social equity applicant" means a person that has applied
- 241 for a license for a cannabis establishment, where such applicant is at
- 242 least sixty-five per cent owned and controlled by an individual or
- 243 individuals, or such applicant is an individual, who:
- 244 (A) Had an average household income of less than three hundred per
- 245 cent of the state median household income over the three tax years
- 246 immediately preceding such individual's application; and
- 247 (B) (i) Was a resident of a disproportionately impacted area for not
- 248 less than five of the ten years immediately preceding the date of such
- 249 application; or
- 250 (ii) Was a resident of a disproportionately impacted area for not less
- 251 than nine years prior to attaining the age of eighteen;
- 252 [(49)] (50) "THC" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-
- 253 240;
- 254 [(50)] (51) "Third-party lottery operator" means a person, or a
- 255 constituent unit of the state system of higher education, that conducts
- 256 lotteries pursuant to section 21a-420g, identifies the cannabis
- 257 establishment license applications for consideration without
- 258 performing any review of the applications that are identified for
- 259 consideration, and that has no direct or indirect oversight of or

- investment in a cannabis establishment or a cannabis establishment applicant;
- [(51)] (52) "Transfer" means to transfer, change, give or otherwise dispose of control over or interest in;
- [(52)] (53) "Transport" means to physically move from one place to another;
- [(53)] (54) "Transporter" means a person licensed to transport cannabis between cannabis establishments, laboratories and research programs; and
- [(54)] (55) "Unemployment rate" means, in a given area, the number of people sixteen years of age or older who are in the civilian labor force and unemployed divided by the number of people sixteen years of age or older who are in the civilian labor force.
 - Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) On and after July 1, 2023, the department may issue an off-site event permit to a retailer or hybrid retailer. Such permit shall authorize the retailer or hybrid retailer to sell cannabis, other than medical marijuana products, to consumers at an event held in this state at a location other than such retailer's or hybrid retailer's premises. Each permit issued by the department pursuant to this section shall be nonrenewable, and shall be effective for a period of time not to exceed three consecutive days. No retailer or hybrid retailer shall receive more than four off-site event permits during any calendar year. No retailer or hybrid retailer may engage in or operate more than one off-site event on any day. No retailer or hybrid retailer may sell cannabis in the manner described in this subsection unless such retailer or hybrid retailer has obtained a permit from the department pursuant to this section.
 - (b) Each retailer or hybrid retailer seeking a permit under this section shall attest and affirm that such retailer or hybrid retailer has received, or will receive, all municipal approvals required to engage in off-site event sales prior to engaging in such sales, and that the off-site event is

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291 not located in a municipality that has prohibited off-site sales of 292 cannabis pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, the establishment of 293 a cannabis establishment pursuant to subsection (b) of section 21a-422f 294 of the general statutes or the sale of cannabis pursuant to subsection (a) 295 of section 21a-422g of the general statutes. The department shall, 296 without further proceedings, immediately and summarily revoke any 297 permit issued pursuant to this section if the retailer or hybrid retailer 298 engages in off-site event sales without having first obtained all required 299 municipal approvals, and such retailer or hybrid retailer shall be 300 prohibited from applying for an off-site event permit for a period of one 301 year from the date of such revocation.

- (c) Prior to submitting an application pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, a retailer or hybrid retailer shall establish written policies, specific to off-site events, for the purpose of preventing (1) diversion and misuse of cannabis, and (2) cannabis sales to underage persons.
- (d) Each retailer or hybrid retailer seeking a permit under this section shall submit an application to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner. Such application shall include:
- (1) The retailer or hybrid retailer's name and address as they appear on the license such retailer or hybrid retailer most recently obtained from the department pursuant to section 21a-420r of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or 21a-420s of the general statutes, as amended by this act, as applicable;
- 314 (2) The attestation and affirmation required under subsection (b) of this section;
- 316 (3) For the off-site event that is the subject of such application:
- 317 (A) The name and address of the person organizing such event;
- 318 (B) The date, time and location of such event; and
- 319 (C) A statement, signed by the retailer or hybrid retailer, certifying

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321	(i) During such event, such retailer or hybrid retailer shall adhere t	
322 323 324	diversion and misuse of cannabis and cannabis sales to under	
325	(II) The prohibition on off-site sales of medical marijuana products	
326 327 328	the off-site event is reasonably expected to be twenty-one years of a	
329 330 331	off-site events based on such retailer's or hybrid retailer's license typ	
332 333 334	(ii) The person organizing such event has submitted a notice to the chief elected official of the municipality in which such event will be held disclosing:	
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339 340 341	receive prior to engaging in off-site event sales, all approvals requir	
342 343	(4) Any other information the commissioner deems necessary for the purposes of this section.	
344 345 346	(e) The department shall collect a nonrefundable application fee in the amount of five hundred dollars from each retailer or hybrid retailer that submits an application to the department pursuant to subsection (c)	

- of this section. All application fees collected by the department pursuant
- to this subsection shall be paid to the State Treasurer and credited to the
- 349 General Fund.

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- (f) (1) A municipality may, by amendment to such municipality's zoning regulations or local ordinance:
- (A) Prohibit retailers and hybrid retailers from selling cannabis in the manner described in subsection (a) of this section;
- 354 (B) Establish reasonable restrictions concerning allowable hours and 355 signage for sales of cannabis under permits issued pursuant to this 356 section; or
 - (C) Establish restrictions on the proximity of sales of cannabis in the manner described in subsection (a) of this section to any of the establishments listed in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 30-46 of the general statutes.
 - (2) If a municipality adopts an amendment or ordinance pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the chief zoning official of such municipality shall, not later than fourteen days after such municipality adopts such amendment or ordinance, submit a report to the department and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, disclosing such amendment or ordinance.
- 368 (3) No municipality may impose a fee for an application filed, or permit issued, pursuant to this section.
 - (g) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, of the general statutes, the commissioner shall, prior to adopting such regulations and in order to effectuate the purposes of RERACA and protect public health and safety, issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of this section,

which policies and procedures shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any such policy or procedure, post such policy or procedure on the department's Internet web site and submit such policy or procedure to the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of such policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 of the general statutes or June 30, 2027, if such regulations have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under section 4-170 of the general statutes. Such regulations, policies and procedures shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions concerning (1) secure transportation of products, (2) seed-to-sale tracking requirements, (3) consumer transaction and offsite inventory limits, (4) off-site location security requirements to protect against cannabis diversion and underage persons' access to cannabis, and (5) off-site event advertising restrictions.

- Sec. 3. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 21a-420b of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):
 - (d) No law enforcement officer employed by an agency that receives state or local government funds shall expend state or local resources, including the officer's time, to effect any arrest or seizure of cannabis, or conduct any investigation, on the sole basis of activity the officer believes to constitute a violation of federal law if the officer has reason to believe that such activity is in compliance with this section and sections 21a-420a, 21a-420c to 21a-420i, inclusive, 21a-420l to 21a-420n, inclusive, 21a-420p to 21a-420t, inclusive, 21a-420v to 21a-421c, inclusive, 21a-421f, 21a-421g, 21a-421j to 21a-421q, inclusive, as amended by this act, 21a-421aa to 21a-421dd, inclusive, 21a-422k and 53-247a, [and] sections 23, 60 and 63 to 65, inclusive, of public act 21-1 of the June special session, [or] chapter 420f or section 2 of this act.
 - (e) An officer may not expend state or local resources, including the officer's time, to provide any information or logistical support to any

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- 410 federal law enforcement authority or prosecuting entity related to
- activity the officer believes to constitute a violation of federal law if the
- officer has reason to believe that such activity is in compliance with the
- 413 provisions of this section and sections 21a-420a, 21a-420c to 21a-420i,
- 414 inclusive, 21a-420l to 21a-420n, inclusive, 21a-420p to 21a-420t,
- 415 inclusive, 21a-420v to 21a-421c, inclusive, 21-421f, 21a-421g, 21a-421j to
- 416 21a-421q, inclusive, as amended by this act, 21a-421aa to 21a-421dd,
- 417 inclusive, 21a-422k and 53-247a, [and] sections 23, 60 and 63 to 65,
- inclusive, of public act 21-1 of the June special session, [or] chapter 420f
- 419 or section 2 of this act.
- Sec. 4. Subsection (k) of section 21a-420d of the general statutes is
- repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*,
- 422 2023):
- 423 (k) The council shall develop criteria for evaluating the ownership
- and control of any equity joint venture created under section 21a-420m,
- as amended by this act, 21a-420u, as amended by this act, or [section]
- 426 21a-420j and shall review and approve or deny in writing such equity
- joint venture prior to such equity joint venture being licensed under
- section 21a-420m, as amended by this act, 21a-420u, as amended by this
- 429 <u>act</u>, or [section] 21a-420j. After developing criteria for social equity plans
- as described in subdivision (5) of subsection (h) of this section, the
- 431 council shall review and approve or deny in writing any such plan
- 432 submitted by a cannabis establishment as part of its final license
- 433 application. The council shall not approve any equity joint venture
- 434 applicant which shares with an equity joint venture any individual
- owner who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B)
- of subdivision [(48)] (49) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act.
- Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 21a-420m of the general statutes is
- 438 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*,
- 439 2023):
- (b) The equity joint venture shall be in any cannabis establishment
- licensed business, other than a cultivator license, provided such equity

- joint venture is at least fifty per cent owned and controlled by an individual or individuals who meet, or the equity joint venture applicant is an individual who meets, the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(48)] (49) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act.
- Sec. 6. Section 21a-420r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):
 - (a) On and after July 1, 2021, the department may issue or renew a license for a person to be a retailer. No person may act as a retailer or represent that such person is a retailer unless such person has obtained a license from the department pursuant to this section.
 - (b) A retailer may obtain cannabis from a cultivator, micro-cultivator, producer, product packager, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer or transporter or an undeliverable return from a delivery service. A retailer may sell, transport or transfer cannabis or cannabis products to a delivery service, laboratory or research program. A retailer may sell cannabis to a consumer or research program. A retailer may not conduct sales of medical marijuana products nor offer discounts or other inducements to qualifying patients or caregivers. A retailer shall not gift or transfer cannabis at no cost to a consumer as part of a commercial transaction.
 - (c) Retailers shall maintain a secure location, in a manner approved by the commissioner, at the licensee's premises where cannabis that is unable to be delivered by an employee or delivery service may be returned to the retailer. Such secure cannabis return location shall meet specifications set forth by the commissioner and published on the department's Internet web site or included in regulations adopted by the department.
- (d) A retailer may deliver cannabis through a delivery service or by utilizing its own employees, subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of section 21a-420c.

- (e) A retailer may sell cannabis to consumers under an off-site event permit issued to the retailer pursuant to section 2 of this act. No retailer shall sell cannabis at an off-site event to any individual who is acting in such individual's capacity as a qualifying patient or caregiver.
- Sec. 7. Section 21a-420s of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):
 - (a) On and after July 1, 2021, the department may issue or renew a license for a hybrid retailer. No person may act as a hybrid retailer or represent that such person is a hybrid retailer unless such person has obtained a license from the department pursuant to this section.
 - (b) A hybrid retailer may obtain cannabis from a cultivator, micro-cultivator, producer, product packager, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer or transporter. In addition to the activities authorized under section 21a-420t, a hybrid retailer may sell, transport or transfer cannabis to a delivery service, laboratory or research program. A hybrid retailer may sell cannabis products to a consumer or research program. A hybrid retailer shall not gift or transfer cannabis at no cost to a consumer, qualifying patient or caregiver as part of a commercial transaction.
 - (c) In addition to conducting general retail sales, a hybrid retailer may sell cannabis and medical marijuana products, to qualifying patients and caregivers. Any cannabis or medical marijuana products sold to qualifying patients and caregivers shall be dispensed by a licensed pharmacist and shall be recorded in the electronic prescription drug monitoring program, established pursuant to section 21a-254, in real-time or immediately upon completion of the transaction, unless not reasonably feasible for a specific transaction, but in no case longer than one hour after completion of the transaction. Only a licensed pharmacist or dispensary technician may upload or access data in the prescription drug monitoring program.
 - (d) A hybrid retailer shall maintain a licensed pharmacist on premises

- at all times when the hybrid retail location is open to the public or to qualifying patients and caregivers.
- (e) The hybrid retailer location shall include a private consultation space for pharmacists to meet with qualifying patients and caregivers. Additionally, the hybrid retailer premises shall accommodate an expedited method of entry that allows for priority entrance into the premises for qualifying patients and caregivers.
- (f) Hybrid retailers shall maintain a secure location, in a manner approved by the commissioner, at the licensee's premises where cannabis that is unable to be delivered may be returned to the hybrid retailer. Such secure cannabis return location shall meet specifications set forth by the commissioner and published on the department's Internet web site or included in regulations adopted by the department.
- (g) Cannabis dispensed to a qualifying patient or caregiver that are unable to be delivered and are returned by the delivery service to the hybrid retailer shall be returned to the licensee inventory system and removed from the prescription drug monitoring program not later than forty-eight hours after receipt of the cannabis from the delivery service.
 - (h) A hybrid retailer may not convert its license to a retailer license. To obtain a retailer license, a hybrid retailer shall apply through the lottery application process. A hybrid retailer may convert to a dispensary facility if the hybrid retailer complies with all applicable provisions of chapter 420f, and upon written approval by the department.
 - (i) A hybrid retailer may sell cannabis to consumers under an off-site event permit issued to the hybrid retailer pursuant to section 2 of this act. No hybrid retailer shall sell cannabis at an off-site event to any individual who is acting in such individual's capacity as a qualifying patient or caregiver.
- Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 21a-420u of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*,

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- (b) Any equity joint venture created under this section shall be created for the development of a cannabis establishment, other than a cultivator, provided such equity joint venture is at least fifty per cent owned and controlled by an individual or individuals who meet, or the equity joint venture applicant is an individual who meets, the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(48)] (49) of section 21a-420, as amended by this act.
- Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 21a-420y of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*, 2023):
 - (b) A product packager may obtain cannabis from a producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer or a product manufacturer, provided the product packager utilizes its own employees or a transporter. The product packager may sell, transfer or transport cannabis to <u>and from</u> any cannabis establishment, laboratory for testing or research program, provided the product packager only transports cannabis packaged at its licensed establishment and utilizing its own employees or a transporter.
- Sec. 10. Section 21a-420z of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):
 - (a) On and after July 1, 2021, the department may issue or renew a license for a person to be a delivery service or a transporter. No person may act as a delivery service or transporter or represent that such person is a licensed delivery service or transporter unless such person has obtained a license from the department pursuant to this section.
 - (b) Upon application for a delivery service or transporter license, the applicant shall indicate whether the applicant is applying to transport cannabis (1) between cannabis establishments, in which case the applicant shall apply for a transporter license, or (2) from certain cannabis establishments to consumers or qualifying patients and

caregivers, or a combination thereof, in which case the applicant shall apply for a delivery service license.

- (c) A delivery service may (1) deliver cannabis from a micro-cultivator, retailer, or hybrid retailer directly to a consumer, and (2) deliver cannabis and medical marijuana products from a hybrid retailer or dispensary facility directly to a qualifying patient, caregiver, or hospice or other inpatient care facility licensed by the Department of Public Health pursuant to chapter 368v that has protocols for the handling and distribution of cannabis that have been approved by the Department of Consumer Protection. A delivery service may not store or maintain control of cannabis or medical marijuana products for more than twenty-four hours between the point when a consumer, qualifying patient, caregiver or facility places an order, until the time that the cannabis or medical marijuana product is delivered to such consumer, qualifying patient, caregiver or facility.
- (d) A transporter may deliver cannabis between cannabis establishments, research programs and laboratories and shall not store or maintain control of cannabis for more than twenty-four hours from the time the transporter obtains the cannabis from a cannabis establishment, research program or laboratory until the time such cannabis is delivered to the destination.
- (e) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of RERACA. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of RERACA and protect public health and safety, prior to adopting such regulations the commissioner shall issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of this section that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either adoption of such

policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or fortyeight months from July 1, 2021, if such final regulations have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under section 4-170. The commissioner shall issue policies and procedures, and thereafter adopt final regulations, requiring that: (1) The delivery service and transporter meet certain security requirements related to the storage, handling and transport of cannabis, the vehicles employed, the conduct of employees and agents, and the documentation that shall be maintained by the delivery service, transporter and its drivers; (2) a delivery service that delivers cannabis to consumers maintain an online interface that verifies the age of consumers ordering cannabis for delivery and meets certain specifications and data security standards; and (3) a delivery service that delivers cannabis to consumers, qualifying patients or caregivers, and all employees and agents of such licensee, to verify the identity of the qualifying patient, caregiver or consumer and the age of the consumer upon delivery of cannabis to the end consumer, qualifying patient or caregiver, in a manner acceptable to the commissioner. The individual placing the cannabis order shall be the individual accepting delivery of the cannabis except, in the case of a qualifying patient, the individual accepting the delivery may be the caregiver of such qualifying patient.

- (f) A delivery service shall not gift or transfer cannabis at no cost to a consumer or qualifying patient or caregiver as part of a commercial transaction.
- (g) A delivery service that employs twelve or more individuals to deliver cannabis pursuant to subsection (c) of this section may only use individuals employed on a full-time basis, not less than thirty-five hours a week, to deliver cannabis pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. Any delivery service employees who deliver cannabis shall be registered with the department, and a delivery service shall not employ more than twenty-five such delivery employees at any given time.
- (h) No provision of this section shall be construed to excuse any delivery service from the requirement that such delivery service enter

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- into a labor peace agreement with a bona fide labor organization under
 section 21a-421d, as amended by this act.
- Sec. 11. Section 21a-421p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):
- 636 (a) For sufficient cause found pursuant to subsection (b) of this 637 section, the commissioner may suspend or revoke a license, permit or 638 registration, issue fines of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars 639 per violation, accept an offer in compromise or refuse to grant [or renew] a license, permit or registration, or renew a license or 640 641 registration, issued pursuant to RERACA, or place such licensee or 642 registrant on probation, place conditions on such licensee or registrant 643 or take other actions [permitted] authorized by law. Information from 644 inspections and investigations conducted by the department related to 645 administrative complaints or cases shall not be subject to disclosure 646 under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200, 647 except after the department has entered into a settlement agreement, or 648 concluded its investigation or inspection as evidenced by case closure, 649 provided [that] nothing in this section shall prevent the department 650 from sharing information with other state and federal agencies and law 651 enforcement as it relates to investigating violations of law.
 - (b) Any of the following shall constitute sufficient cause for such action by the commissioner, including, but not limited to:
 - (1) Furnishing of false or fraudulent information in any application or failure to comply with representations made in any application, including, but not limited to, medical preservation plans and security requirements;
- 658 (2) A civil judgment against or disqualifying conviction of a cannabis 659 establishment licensee, backer, key employee or license applicant;
- 660 (3) Failure to maintain effective controls against diversion, theft or loss of cannabis, cannabis products or other controlled substances;

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662	(4) Discipline by, or a pending disciplinary action or an unresolved		
663	complaint against a cannabis establishment licensee, registrant or		
664	applicant regarding any professional license or registration of any		
665	federal, state or local government;		
666	(5) Failure to keep accurate records and to account for the cultivation		
667	manufacture, packaging or sale of cannabis;		
668	(6) Denial, suspension or revocation of a license or registration, or the		
669	denial of a renewal of a license or registration, by any federal, state of		
670	local government or a foreign jurisdiction;		
671	(7) False, misleading or deceptive representations to the public or the		
672	department;		
673	(8) Return to regular stock of any cannabis where:		
674	(A) The package or container containing the cannabis has been		
675	opened, breached, tampered with or otherwise adulterated; or		
676	(B) The cannabis has been previously sold to an end user or research		
677	program subject;		
678	(9) Involvement in a fraudulent or deceitful practice or transaction;		
679	(10) Performance of incompetent or negligent work;		
680	(11) Failure to maintain the entire cannabis establishment premises		
681	or laboratory and contents in a secure, clean, orderly and sanitary		
682	condition;		
683	(12) [Permitting] Allowing another person to use the licensee's		
684	license;		
685	(13) Failure to properly register employees or license key employees,		
686	or failure to notify the department of a change in key employees or		
687	backers;		

- 688 (14) An adverse administrative decision or delinquency assessment 689 against the cannabis establishment from the Department of Revenue 690 Services;
- (15) Failure to cooperate or give information to the department, local law enforcement authorities or any other enforcement agency upon any matter arising out of conduct in connection with a research program or an event that is the subject of an off-site event permit issued pursuant to section 2 of this act, or at the premises of a cannabis establishment or a laboratory; [or in connection with a research program;]
- 697 (16) Advertising in a manner prohibited by section 21a-421bb; or
 - (17) Failure to comply with any provision of RERACA, or any policies and procedures issued by the commissioner to implement, or regulations adopted pursuant to, RERACA.
 - (c) Upon refusal to issue [or renew] a license, permit or registration, or renew a license or registration, the commissioner shall notify the applicant of the denial and of the applicant's right to request a hearing within ten days from the date of receipt of the notice of denial. If the applicant requests a hearing within such ten-day period, the commissioner shall give notice of the grounds for the commissioner's refusal and shall conduct a hearing concerning such refusal in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 concerning contested cases. If the commissioner's denial of a license or registration is sustained after such hearing, an applicant may not apply for a new cannabis establishment, laboratory, backer or key employee license, [or] employee registration or off-site event permit for a period of one year after the date on which such denial was sustained.
 - (d) No person whose license or registration has been revoked may apply for a cannabis establishment, backer or key employee license or an employee registration for a period of one year after the date of such revocation.
- 718 (e) The voluntary surrender of a license, permit or registration, or

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- 719 failure to renew a license or registration, shall not prevent the
- 720 commissioner from suspending or revoking such license, permit or
- 721 registration or imposing other penalties permitted by RERACA.
- Sec. 12. Section 21a-278b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*, 2023):
- (a) No person may manufacture, distribute, sell, prescribe, dispense, compound, transport with the intent to sell or dispense, possess with the intent to sell or dispense, offer, give or administer to another person cannabis or cannabis products, except as authorized in chapter 420b or 420f or sections 21a-420n, 21a-420p, 21a-420r to 21a-420t, inclusive, as amended by this act, or 21a-420w to 21a-420z, inclusive, as amended by this act, or section 2 of this act.
- (b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (c) or (d) of this section, any person eighteen years of age or older who violates subsection (a) of this section (A) for a first offense, shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor, and (B) for any subsequent offense, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
- (2) Any person under eighteen years of age who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be adjudicated delinquent pursuant to the provisions of section 46b-120.
 - (c) Any person eighteen years of age or older who violates subsection (a) of this section by manufacturing, distributing, selling, prescribing, compounding, transporting with the intent to sell or dispense, possessing with the intent to sell or dispense, offering, giving or administering to another person less than eight ounces of cannabis plant material, as defined in section 21a-279a, or an equivalent amount of cannabis products or a combination of cannabis and cannabis products, as provided in subsection (i) of section 21a-279a, (1) for a first offense, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars, and (2) for any subsequent offense, shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.
- 749 (d) Any person eighteen years of age or older who before July 1, 2023,

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- 750 violates subsection (a) of this section by growing up to three mature 751 cannabis plants and three immature cannabis plants in such person's 752 own residence for personal use (1) for a first offense, shall be issued a 753 written warning, (2) for a second offense, shall be fined not more than 754 five hundred dollars, and (3) for any subsequent offense, shall be guilty 755 of a class D misdemeanor. If evidence of a violation of this subsection is 756 found in the course of any law enforcement activity other than 757 investigation of a violation of this subsection or section 21a-278 or 21a-758 279a, such evidence shall not be admissible in any criminal proceeding.
- Sec. 13. Section 21a-421d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):
 - (a) As used in this section:

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- (1) "Bona fide labor organization" means a labor union that **[**(A) represents employees in this state with regard to wages, hours and working conditions, (B) whose officers have been elected by a secret ballot or otherwise in a manner consistent with federal law, (C) is free of domination or interference by any employer and has received no improper assistance or support from any employer, and (D)] the Labor Department determines, pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, is actively seeking to represent cannabis workers in the state;
- (2) "Labor peace agreement" means an agreement between a cannabis establishment and a bona fide labor organization under this section pursuant to which the owners and management of the cannabis establishment agree not to lock out employees and that prohibits the bona fide labor organization from engaging in picketing, work stoppages or boycotts against the cannabis establishment;
- 776 (3) "Cannabis establishment", "dispensary facility" and "producer" 777 have the same meanings as provided in section 21a-420, as amended by 778 this act; and
- 779 (4) "Licensee" means a cannabis establishment licensee, dispensary 780 facility or producer.

(b) The Labor Department shall determine which labor unions, and develop a list of labor unions that, are actively seeking to represent cannabis workers in the state. In determining whether a labor union is actively seeking to represent cannabis workers in the state, the Labor Department shall consider the following factors to be indicative, but not determinative, of whether the labor union is actively seeking to represent cannabis workers in the state: (1) The labor union (A) represents employees in this state with regard to wages, hours and working conditions, (B) is free of domination or interference by any employer, (C) has received no improper assistance or support from any employer, (D) has been recognized or certified as the bargaining representative for cannabis employees in the state, (E) has executed one or more current collective bargaining agreements with cannabis employers in the state, (F) has spent resources as part of one or more current and active attempts to organize and represent cannabis workers in the state, (G) has filed the annual report required by 29 USC 431(b) for the three years immediately preceding the Labor Department's consideration of such labor union, (H) has audited financial reports covering the three years immediately preceding the Labor Department's consideration of such labor union, (I) was governed by a written constitution or bylaws for the three years immediately preceding the Labor Department's consideration of such labor union, and (J) is affiliated with regional or national associations of unions, including, but not limited to, central labor councils; and (2) the labor union's officers have been elected by a secret ballot or otherwise in a manner consistent with federal law.

[(b)] (c) Any provisional cannabis establishment licensee, dispensary facility or producer shall, as a condition of its final license approval, license conversion or approval for expanded authorization, respectively, enter into a labor peace agreement with a bona fide labor organization. Any such labor peace agreement shall contain a clause that the parties agree that final and binding arbitration by a neutral arbitrator will be the exclusive remedy for any violation of such agreement.

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[(c)] (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 54, if an arbitrator finds that a licensee failed to comply with an order issued by the arbitrator to correct a failure to abide by such agreement, upon receipt of a written copy of such finding, the [department] Department of Consumer Protection shall suspend the licensee's license without further administrative proceedings or formal hearing.

[(d)] (e) A licensee or bona fide labor organization may commence a civil action in the Superior Court in the judicial district where the facility used in the operation of a cannabis establishment is located to enforce the arbitration award or to lift the license suspension. The license shall remain suspended until such time that: (1) [the] The arbitrator notifies, or both of the parties to the arbitration notify, the [department] <u>Department of Consumer Protection</u> that the licensee is in compliance with the arbitration award; (2) both of the parties to the arbitration notify the [department] Department of Consumer Protection that they have satisfactorily resolved their dispute; (3) the court, after hearing, lifts the suspension; or (4) the court, after hearing, orders alternative remedies, which may include, but need not be limited to, ordering the [department] Department of Consumer Protection to revoke the license or ordering the appointment of a receiver to properly dispose of any cannabis inventory. Except as provided in subsection [(e)] (f) of this section, during such time that a license is suspended pursuant to this section, the licensee may engage in conduct necessary to maintain and secure the cannabis inventory, but may not sell, transport or transfer cannabis to another cannabis establishment, consumer or laboratory, unless such sale or transfer is associated with a voluntary surrender of license and a cannabis disposition plan approved by the [commissioner] Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

[(e)] (f) A producer, cultivator or micro-cultivator may sell, transport or transfer cannabis to a product packager, food or beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer, dispensary facility or hybrid retailer for the sale of products to qualified patients or caregivers, which products shall be labeled "For Medical Use Only".

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Sec. 14. Section 21a-421j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to implement the provisions of RERACA. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of RERACA and protect public health and safety, prior to adopting such regulations the commissioner shall issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of RERACA that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. The commissioner shall also provide such policies and procedures, in a manner prescribed by the commissioner, to each licensee and applicant for a license under this chapter. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or forty-eight months from June 22, 2021, if such regulations have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under section 4-170. The commissioner shall issue policies and procedures and thereafter final regulations that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Setting appropriate dosage, potency, concentration and serving size limits and delineation requirements for cannabis, provided a standardized serving of edible cannabis product or beverage, other than a medical marijuana product, shall contain not more than five milligrams of THC. [;]
- (2) Requiring that each single standardized serving of cannabis product in a multiple-serving edible product or beverage is physically demarked in a way that enables a reasonable person to determine how much of the product constitutes a single serving and a maximum amount of THC per multiple-serving edible cannabis product or beverage. [;]

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- (3) Requiring that, if it is impracticable to clearly demark every standardized serving of cannabis product or to make each standardized serving easily separable in an edible cannabis product or beverage, the product, other than cannabis concentrate or medical marijuana product, shall contain not more than five milligrams of THC per unit of sale. [;]
 - (4) Establishing, in consultation with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, consumer health materials that shall be posted or distributed, as specified by the commissioner, by cannabis establishments to maximize dissemination to cannabis consumers. Consumer health materials may include pamphlets, packaging inserts, signage, online and printed advertisements and advisories and printed health materials. [;]
 - (5) Imposing labeling and packaging requirements for cannabis sold by a cannabis establishment that include, but are not limited to, the following:
- (A) [A] <u>Inclusion of universal [symbol] symbols</u> to indicate that cannabis, or a cannabis product <u>that</u> contains cannabis, <u>contains THC</u> and is not legal or safe for individuals younger than twenty-one years <u>of age</u>, and prescribe how such product and product packaging shall utilize and exhibit such [symbol;] <u>symbols</u>.
 - (B) A disclosure concerning the length of time it typically takes for the cannabis to affect an individual, including that certain forms of cannabis take longer to have an effect. [;]
- (C) A notation of the amount of cannabis the cannabis product is considered the equivalent to. [;]
- 906 (D) A list of ingredients and all additives for cannabis. [;]
- 907 (E) Child-resistant, tamper-resistant and light-resistant packaging, 908 including requiring that an edible product be individually wrapped. [;] 909 For the purposes of this subparagraph, packaging shall be deemed to be 910 (i) child-resistant if the packaging satisfies the standard for special

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911	packaging established in 16 CFR 1700.1(b)(4), as amended from time to	
912	time, (ii) tamper-resistant if the packaging has at least one barrier to, or	
913	indicator of, entry that would preclude the contents of such packaging	
914	from being accessed or adulterated without indicating to a reasonabl	
915	person that such packaging has been breached, and (iii) light-resistant if	
916	the packaging is entirely and uniformly opaque and protects the entirety	
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918	(F) Packaging for cannabis intended for multiple servings to be	
919	resealable in such a manner so as to render such packaging continuously	
920	child-resistant, as described in subparagraph (E)(i) of this subdivision,	
921	and preserve the integrity of the contents of such packaging.	
922	(G) Impervious packaging that protects the contents of such	
923	packaging from contamination and exposure to any toxic or harmful	
924	substance, including, but not limited to, any glue or other adhesive o	
925	substance that is incorporated in such packaging.	
926	[(F)] (H) Product tracking information sufficient to determine where	
927	and when the cannabis was grown and manufactured such that a	
928	product recall could be effectuated. [;]	
929	[(G)] (I) A net weight statement. [;]	
930	[(H)] (I) A recommended use by or expiration date. [; and]	
931	[(I)] (K) Standard and uniform packaging and labeling, including, but	
932	not limited to, requirements (i) regarding branding or logos, (ii) that al	
933	packaging be opaque, and (iii) that amounts and concentrations of THC	
934	and cannabidiol, per serving and per package, be clearly marked on th	
935	packaging or label of any cannabis product sold. [;]	
936	(L) For any cannabis concentrate cannabis product that contains a	
937	total THC percentage greater than thirty per cent, a warning that such	
938	cannabis product is a high-potency product and may increase the risl	
939	of psychosis.	

940	(M) Chemotypes, which shall be displayed as (i) "High THC, Low	
941	CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is greater than five to one and the	
942	total THC percentage is at least fifteen per cent, (ii) "Moderate THC,	
943	Moderate CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is at least one to five but	
944	not greater than five to one and the total THC percentage is greater than	
945	five per cent but less than fifteen per cent, (iii) "Low THC, High CBD"	
946	where the ratio of THC to CBD is less than one to five and the total THC	
947	percentage is not greater than five per cent, or (iv) the chemotype	
948	described in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of this subparagraph that most closely	
949	fits the cannabis or cannabis product, as determined by mathematical	
950	analysis of the ratio of THC to CBD, where such cannabis or cannabis	
951	product does not fit a chemotype described in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of	
952	this subparagraph.	

- (N) A requirement that, prior to being sold and transferred to a consumer, qualifying patient or caregiver, cannabis packaging be clearly labeled, whether printed directly on such packaging or affixed by way of a separate label, other than an extended content label, with:
- 957 (i) A unique identifier generated by a cannabis analytic tracking 958 system maintained by the department and used to track cannabis under 959 the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by 960 the commissioner pursuant to this section; and
 - (ii) The following information concerning the cannabis contained in such packaging, which shall be in legible English, black lettering, Times New Roman font, flat regular typeface, on a contrasting background and in uniform size of not less than one-tenth of one inch, based on a capital letter "K", which information shall also be available on the Internet web site of the cannabis establishment that sells and transfers such cannabis:
- 968 (I) The name of such cannabis, as registered with the department 969 under the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, 970 by the commissioner pursuant to this section.

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971	(II) The expiration date, which shall not account for any refrigeration		
972	after such cannabis is sold and transferred to the consumer, qualifying		
973	patient or caregiver.		
974	(III) The net weight or volume, expressed in metric and imperi		
975	units.		
976	(IV) The standardized serving size, expressed in customary units, and		
977	the number of servings included in such packaging, if applicable.		
978	(V) Directions for use and storage.		
979	(VI) Each active ingredient comprising at least one per cent of such		
980	cannabis, including cannabinoids, isomers, esters, ethers and salts and		
981	salts of isomers, esters and ethers, and all quantities thereof expressed		
982	in metric units and as a percentage of volume.		
983	(VII) A list of all known allergens, as identified by the federal Food		
984	and Drug Administration, contained in such cannabis, or the denotation		
985	"no known FDA identified allergens" if such cannabis does not contain		
986	any allergen identified by the federal Food and Drug Administration.		
987	(VIII) The following warning statement within, and outlined by, a red		
988			
989	"This product is not FDA-approved, may be intoxicating, cause long-		
990	term physical and mental health problems, and have delayed sid		
991	effects. It is illegal to operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence		
992	-		
993	(IX) At least one of the following warning statements, rotated		
994	quarterly on an alternating basis:		
995	"Warning: Frequent and prolonged use of cannabis can contribute to		
996	mental health problems over time, including anxiety, depression,		
997	stunted brain development and impaired memory."		
998	"Warning: Consumption while pregnant or breastfeeding may be		

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999	harmful."		
1000	"Warning: Cannabis has intoxicating effects and may be habit-		
1001	forming and addictive."		
1002	"Warning: Consuming more than the recommended amount may		
1003	result in adverse effects requiring medical attention.".		
1004	(X) All information necessary to comply with labeling requirements		
1005	imposed under the laws of this state or federal law, including, but not		
1006	limited to, sections 21a-91 to 21a-120, inclusive, and 21a-151 to 21a-159,		
1007	inclusive, the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 USC 301 et seq.,		
1008	as amended from time to time, and the federal Fair Packaging and		
1009	Labeling Act, 15 USC 1451 et seq., as amended from time to time, for		
1010	similar products that do not contain cannabis.		
1011	(YI) Such additional warning labels for cortain cannabis products as		
1011	* /		
1012	the commissioner may require and post on the department's Internet web site.		
1013	web site.		
1014	(6) Establishing laboratory testing standards. [;]		
1015	(7) Restricting forms of cannabis products and cannabis product		
1016	delivery systems to ensure consumer safety and deter public health		
1017	concerns. [;]		
1018	(8) Prohibiting certain manufacturing methods, or inclusion of		
1019	additives to cannabis products, including, but not limited to, (A) added		
1020	flavoring, terpenes or other additives unless approved by the		
1021	department, or (B) any form of nicotine or other additive containing		
1022	nicotine. [;]		
1023	(9) Prohibiting cannabis product types that appeal to children. [;]		
1024	(10) Establishing physical and cyber security requirements related to		
1025	build out, monitoring and protocols for cannabis establishments as a		
1026	requirement for licensure. [;]		

- 1027 (11) Placing temporary limits on the sale of cannabis in the adult-use 1028 market, if deemed appropriate and necessary by the commissioner, in 1029 response to a shortage of cannabis for qualifying patients. [;]
- 1030 (12) Requiring retailers and hybrid retailers to make best efforts to provide access to (A) low-dose THC products, including products that have one milligram and two and a half milligrams of THC per dose, and (B) high-dose CBD products. [;]
 - (13) Requiring producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product manufacturers and food and beverage manufacturers to register brand names for cannabis, in accordance with the policies and procedures and subject to the fee set forth in, regulations adopted under chapter 420f. [;]
 - (14) Prohibiting a cannabis establishment from selling, other than the sale of medical marijuana products between cannabis establishments and the sale of cannabis to qualified patients and caregivers, (A) cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material with a total THC concentration greater than thirty per cent on a dry-weight basis, and (B) any cannabis product other than cannabis flower and cannabis plant material with a total THC concentration greater than sixty per cent on a dry-weight basis, except that the provisions of subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall not apply to the sale of prefilled cartridges for use in an electronic cannabis delivery system, as defined in section 19a-342a and the department may adjust the percentages set forth in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision in regulations adopted pursuant to this section for purposes of public health or to address market access or shortage. As used in this subdivision, "total THC" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240 and "cannabis plant material" means material from the cannabis plant, as defined in section 21a-279a. [; and]
 - (15) Permitting the outdoor cultivation of cannabis.
- 1056 (16) Prohibiting packaging that is (A) visually similar to any commercially similar product that does not contain cannabis, or (B) used

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1058	for any good that is marketed to individuals reasonably expected to be	
1059	younger than twenty-one years of age.	
1060	(17) Allowing connabis packaging to include a picture of the connabis	
1060	(17) Allowing cannabis packaging to include a picture of the cannabis	
	plant and contain a logo of one cannabis establishment, which logo may	
1062	be comprised of not more than three colors and provided neither black	
1063	nor white shall be considered one of such three colors. Packaging shall	
1064	be entirely and uniformly one color, and shall not incorporate any	
1065	information, print, embossing, debossing, graphic or hidden feature,	
1066	other than any permitted or required label. Notwithstanding any	
1067	contrary provision of this subdivision, packaging for edible cannabis	
1068	products shall be entirely and uniformly white, and white and black	
1069	shall be considered colors for the purposes of edible cannabis product	
1070	packaging.	
1071	Cog 15 Coation 280 1040 of the general statutes is repealed and the	
	Sec. 15. Section 38a-1040 of the general statutes is repealed and the	
1072	following is substituted in lieu thereof (<i>Effective from passage</i>):	
1073	As used in this section and sections [38a-1040] 38a-1041 to 38a-1050,	
1074	inclusive, as amended by this act:	
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1075	(1) "Caregiver" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408;	
1076	[(1)] (2) "Consumer" means an individual who receives or is	
1077	attempting to receive services from a managed care organization and is	
1077	a resident of this state; [.]	
1076	a resident of this state, [.]	
1079	[(2)] (3) "Managed care organization" means an insurer, health care	
1080	center, hospital service corporation, medical service corporation or	
1081	other organization delivering, issuing for delivery, renewing or	
1082	amending any individual or group health managed care plan in this	
1083	state; [.]	
1000	5.M.O.Z. [1]	
1084	[(3)] (4) "Managed care plan" means a product offered by a managed	
1085	care organization that provides for the financing or delivery of health	
1086	care services to persons enrolled in the plan through: (A) Arrangements	
1087	with selected providers to furnish health care services; (B) explicit	

1088	standards for the selection of participating providers; (C) financial		
1089	incentives for enrollees to use the participating providers and		
1090	procedures provided for by the plan; or (D) arrangements that share		
1091	risks with providers, provided the organization offering a plan		
1092	described under subparagraph (A), (B), (C) or (D) of this subdivision is		
1093	licensed by the Insurance Department pursuant to chapter 698, 698a or		
1094	700 and that the plan includes utilization review, as defined in section		
1095	38a-591a;		
1096	(5) "Marijuana" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240		
1097	(6) "Medical marijuana product" has the same meaning as provided		
1098	in section 21a-420, as amended by this act;		
1099	(7) "Palliative use" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-		
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1101	(8) "Qualifying patient" has the same meaning as provided in section		
1102	<u>21a-408</u> .		
1103	Sec. 16. Section 38a-1041 of the general statutes is repealed and the		
1104	following is substituted in lieu thereof (<i>Effective from passage</i>):		
1105	(a) There is established an Office of the Healthcare Advocate which		
1106	shall be within the Insurance Department for administrative purposes		
1107	only.		
1108	(b) The Office of the Healthcare Advocate may:		
1109	(1) Assist health insurance consumers with managed care plan		
1110	selection by providing information, referral and assistance to		
1111	individuals about means of obtaining health insurance coverage and		
1112	services;		
1113	(2) Assist health insurance consumers to understand their rights and		
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(3) Provide information to the public, agencies, legislators and others

1116 1117	regarding problems and concerns of health insurance consumers and make recommendations for resolving those problems and concerns;		
1118 1119 1120 1121	(4) Assist consumers with the filing of complaints and appeal including filing appeals with a managed care organization's internal appeal or grievance process and the external appeal process established under sections 38a-591d to 38a-591g, inclusive;		
1122 1123 1124	(5) Analyze and monitor the development and implementation of federal, state and local laws, regulations and policies relating to healt insurance consumers and recommend changes it deems necessary;		
1125 1126	(6) Facilitate public comment on laws, regulations and policies, including policies and actions of health insurers;		
1127 1128	(7) Ensure that health insurance consumers have timely access to the services provided by the office;		
1129 1130	(8) Review the health insurance records of a consumer who has provided written consent for such review;		
1131 1132 1133	(9) Create and make available to employers a notice, suitable for posting in the workplace, concerning the services that the Healthcare Advocate provides;		
1134 1135 1136	allow customer access to the services provided by the Healthcar		
1137 1138	(11) Pursue administrative remedies on behalf of and with the consent of any health insurance consumers;		
1139 1140 1141	(12) Adopt regulations, pursuant to chapter 54, to carry out the provisions of sections 38a-1040 to 38a-1050, inclusive, as amended by this act; and		

(13) Take any other actions necessary to fulfill the purposes of

sections 38a-1040 to 38a-1050, inclusive, as amended by this act.

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1144 (c) The Office of the Healthcare Advocate shall make a referral to the
1145 Insurance Commissioner if the Healthcare Advocate finds that a
1146 preferred provider network may have engaged in a pattern or practice
1147 that may be in violation of sections 38a-479aa to 38a-479gg, inclusive, or
1148 38a-815 to 38a-819, inclusive.

- (d) The Healthcare Advocate and the Insurance Commissioner shall jointly compile a list of complaints received against managed care organizations and preferred provider networks and the commissioner shall maintain the list, except the names of complainants shall not be disclosed if such disclosure would violate the provisions of section 4-61dd or 38a-1045.
- (e) The [Managed Care Ombudsman] Healthcare Advocate shall establish a process to provide ongoing communication among mental health care providers, patients, state-wide and regional business organizations, managed care companies and other health insurers to assure: (1) Best practices in mental health treatment and recovery; (2) compliance with the provisions of sections 38a-476a, 38a-476b, 38a-488a and 38a-489; and (3) the relative costs and benefits of providing effective mental health care coverage to employees and their families. On or before January 1, 2006, and annually thereafter, the Healthcare Advocate shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the implementation of this subsection to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and insurance.
- (f) The Office of the Healthcare Advocate shall, within available appropriations, establish and maintain a healthcare consumer information web site on the Internet for use by the public in obtaining healthcare information, including but not limited to: (1) The availability of wellness programs in various regions of Connecticut, such as disease prevention and health promotion programs; (2) quality and experience data from hospitals licensed in this state; and (3) a link to the consumer report card developed and distributed by the Insurance Commissioner pursuant to section 38a-478l.

(g) The Office of the Healthcare Advocate shall establish an information and referral service to help residents and providers receive behavioral health care information, timely referrals and access to behavioral health care providers. In developing and implementing such service, the Healthcare Advocate, or the Healthcare Advocate's designee, shall: (1) Collaborate with stakeholders, including, but not limited to, (A) state agencies, (B) the Behavioral Health Partnership established pursuant to section 17a-22h, (C) community collaboratives, (D) the United Way's 2-1-1 Infoline program, and (E) providers; (2) identify any basis that prevents residents from obtaining adequate and timely behavioral health care services, including, but not limited to, (A) gaps in private behavioral health care services and coverage, and (B) barriers to access to care; (3) coordinate a public awareness and educational campaign directing residents to the information and referral service; and (4) develop data reporting mechanisms to determine the effectiveness of the service, including, but not limited to, tracking (A) the number of referrals to providers by type and location of providers, (B) waiting time for services, and (C) the number of providers who accept or reject requests for service based on type of health care coverage. Not later than February 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the Office of the Healthcare Advocate shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, human services, public health and insurance. The report shall identify gaps in services and the resources needed to improve behavioral health care options for residents.

(h) Not later than October 1, 2022, the Healthcare Advocate shall designate an employee of the Office of the Healthcare Advocate to be responsible for: (1) Performing the office's duties to minors; and (2) coordinating state-wide efforts to ensure that minors have coverage, and access to services, for behavioral health conditions, mental health conditions and substance use disorders.

(i) Not later than October 1, 2023, the Healthcare Advocate shall

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1210 designate an employee of the Office of the Healthcare Advocate to serve as the Cannabis Ombudsman. The ombudsman shall be qualified by 1211 training and experience to perform the duties set forth in this subsection, 1212 1213 and shall have expertise and experience with the palliative use of 1214 marijuana. The ombudsman shall: (1) Represent the interests of 1215 qualifying patients and caregivers; (2) identify, investigate and resolve 1216 complaints made by, or on behalf of, qualifying patients and caregivers; 1217 (3) monitor the palliative use of marijuana as authorized under chapter 1218 420f; (4) report action, inaction or decisions that may adversely affect the 1219 health, safety, welfare or rights of qualifying patients; (5) analyze, 1220 comment on and monitor the development and implementation of 1221 federal, state and local laws, regulations and other government policies 1222 and actions concerning the health, safety, welfare and rights of 1223 qualifying patients and caregivers; (6) recommend any changes to the 1224 laws, regulations, policies and actions described in subdivision (5) of 1225 this subsection that the ombudsman deems appropriate to, among other things, improve the palliative marijuana market in this state; and (7) 1226 1227 facilitate public comment on the laws, regulations, policies and actions 1228 described in subdivision (5) of this subsection.

Sec. 17. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to study the potential health, safety and financial impact of allowing individuals who are authorized to cultivate cannabis in their residences to sell, at retail, such cannabis at events organized, at least in part, to facilitate such sales. The task force shall (1) examine the impact that such sales would likely have on this state, including, but not limited to, the impact that such sales would likely have on residents of this state and the state's existing medical and recreational cannabis markets, and (2) if the task force recommends that the state authorize such sales, recommend any legislation necessary to authorize and regulate such sales.

- (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:
- 1241 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

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1242 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate; 1243 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of 1244 Representatives; 1245 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; 1246 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of 1247 Representatives; 1248 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; 1249 (7) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's 1250 designee; 1251 (8) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's 1252 designee; 1253 (9) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or 1254 the commissioner's designee; and 1255 (10) Two appointed by the Governor. 1256 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), 1257 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member 1258 of the General Assembly. 1259 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later 1260 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall 1261 be filled by the appointing authority. 1262 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro 1263 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from 1264 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule 1265 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty 1266 days after the effective date of this section. 1267 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	21a-420
Sec. 2	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 3	July 1, 2023	21a-420b(d) and (e)
Sec. 4	July 1, 2023	21a-420d(k)
Sec. 5	July 1, 2023	21a-420m(b)
Sec. 6	July 1, 2023	21a-420r
Sec. 7	July 1, 2023	21a-420s
Sec. 8	July 1, 2023	21a-420u(b)
Sec. 9	July 1, 2023	21a-420y(b)
Sec. 10	July 1, 2023	21a-420z
Sec. 11	July 1, 2023	21a-421p
Sec. 12	July 1, 2023	21a-278b
Sec. 13	July 1, 2023	21a-421d
Sec. 14	July 1, 2023	21a-421j
Sec. 15	from passage	38a-1040
Sec. 16	from passage	38a-1041
Sec. 17	from passage	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Section 1(1) was rewritten for consistency with standard drafting conventions and accuracy; in Section 2(b), the reference to Subsec. (e) was changed to reference Subsec. (f) for accuracy; in Sections 2(e), (f) and (g), the designators "(d)", "(e)" and "(f)" were changed to "(e)", "(f)" and "(g)", respectively, for consistency with standard drafting conventions; in Section 3(d) and (e), "53-247a and" was changed to "53-247a, [and]" for consistency with standard drafting conventions; in Section 4(k), "section 21a-420j" was changed to "[section] 21a-420j" for

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consistency with standard drafting conventions; Section 9(b) was rewritten for clarity; in Section 12(a), "[or] 21a-420w" was changed to "or 21a-420w" for consistency with standard drafting conventions; in Section 13(b), "identify, and develop a list of," was changed to "determine which labor unions, and develop a list of labor unions that," for internal consistency; in Section 14(5)(F), "multiple-serving" was changed to "multiple servings" for clarity; in Section 14(5)(N)(ii)(VI), "ethers, salts" was changed to "ethers and salts" for clarity; in Section 14(5)(N)(ii)(X), "sections 21a-151" was changed to "and 21a-151" for consistency with standard drafting conventions; and in Section 14(17), "black and white shall not" was changed to "neither black nor white shall" for clarity.

GL Joint Favorable Subst.