

CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION

June 17, 2025
10:00 AM

In-Person with Remote Access via [Microsoft Teams Live*](#)

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Documents:

- Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources May 29, 2024, Joint Notice

In Attendance:

- Commissioner Ava Callender Concepcion
- Commissioner Kimberly Roy
- Acting Chair Bruce Stebbins

Minutes:

- I. Call to Order
 - The Acting Chair (AC) recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order.
 - The AC gave notice that the meeting is being recorded.
 - The AC gave an overview of the agenda.
- II. Commissioners' Comments & Updates – 00:01:08
 - Commissioners noted the upcoming Juneteenth holiday as well as Father's Day.
- III. Executive Director Review of CANNRA Meeting – 00:03:15
 - Executive Director (ED) Travis Ahern discussed his experience at CANNRA. He described how Massachusetts was not alone with frustrations regarding intoxicating hemp products and he had heard various solutions such as indicating the purpose of the end product at the time of planting (i.e. whether it would be used in intoxicating products or for industrial purposes). He mentioned that stakeholders from other states were also experiencing issues relating to testing and lab shopping. The ED noted that other states had taken a more liberal approach to authorizing medical-use such as Maine which allowed for Cannabis to be prescribed anywhere which was also authorized to prescribe opioids. Regarding Social Consumption, he described other states' approaches, some of which focused on larger venues which could be rented out as well as mobile options. Commissioner Concepcion asked if federal changes



had been discussed and the ED described how those conversations had focused on the PREPARE and STATES 2.0 Acts and providing banking services to the industry.

IV. Commission Discussion and Votes – 00:29:53

1. Discussion and Review of Draft Regulations and Policy Questions

- The AC explained that this topic was before the board to seek Commissioner input on policy questions in order to direct the Social Consumption working group for further amendments to the draft regulations. Deputy General Counsel Michael Baker (DGC Baker) asked for feedback on whether Commissioners wished to include the changes to 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.029 and .030 which the AC had discussed at the previous meeting regarding Agent Registration. Commissioners discussed and found consensus on having the badge follow the agent while minimizing the costs for agents. Commissioner Roy volunteered to work offline on the topic with DGC Baker and Commissioner Concepcion requested a legal analysis. Director of Licensing Olivia Koval (Director Koval) stated that her only concern would be potential suitability issues due to agents' responsibility to self-report suitability issues. Commissioner Roy explained that she would like to work offline with finance staff to evaluate any potential impacts.
- The next topic DGC Baker sought input on was whether alcohol could be served by an entity outside of their Social Consumption Area which would be addressed in 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.141(4)(c). Commissioner Roy noted that Michigan permitted alcohol to be sold on-site and DGC Baker clarified that on-site consumption of alcohol was not being considered and the question was whether to allow an entity to sell alcohol outside of the areas where Cannabis was consumed. Commissioner Roy read aloud a joint bulletin from the Department of Public Health and Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and asked if allowing alcohol sales could jeopardize licensure with the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. She asked further if preventing Consumers from bringing alcohol into a Social Consumption Area was possible and Director of Investigations Katherine Binkoski (Director Binkoski) confirmed that Licensees would have to detail their plans to prevent this in their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) Commissioners discussed and agreed to leave the definition of Premises as-is.
- The Commission took a brief recess. (Returned at 02:54:25.)
- DGC Baker explained the next policy decision related to 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.050(a) and .141(4) and asked for feedback on whether the board intended to authorize deli-style serving in Social Consumption Areas. Director Binkoski described how these transactions could be tracked in Metrc, although DGC Baker added that a new Statement of Work would need to be executed. Enforcement Counsel Timothy Goodin (EC Goodin) suggested including a higher standard for regular inventories for Social Consumption Establishments (SCEs) which implemented deli-style serving and Commissioner Roy requested the approval-memo



- which allowed for deli-style serving as a form of repackaging. Commissioners agreed to allow for deli-style serving and to explore how to allow for the sale of small doses.
- DGC Baker requested input on whether the board wanted to allow Cannabis bought at the point of sale of a Retailer to be used in the same Retailer's Social Consumption Area. The AC indicated that his preference was to require separate inventory practices and DGC Baker stated he would work offline to draft amendments.
 - The AC directed the conversation to 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.141(3)(a) and relayed the working group's question as to whether to raise the purchase limit to match the maximum daily allotment and found consensus to match the two limitations. DGC Baker stated that he would amend the regulations to indicate that each Consumer would be billed individually and seek feedback during the public comment period.
 - The next topic was whether to allow SCEs to sell non-shelf stable products which would be detailed in 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.141(3)(e). DGC Baker noted that he had received feedback from the Department of Public Health (DPH) that non-shelf stable products increased the risk of food borne illnesses. Commissioners discussed and agreed to allow for the sale of non-shelf stable products.
 - DGC Baker asked Commissioners what they would like to be captured by camera coverage. The AC stated that the main areas that he wanted to be covered were the entryway and point of sale. Commissioner Roy cited 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.110(5)(a)4, which stated that any areas where Cannabis was present was required to be recorded, and Commissioner Concepcion requested an amendment to 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.141(1) to indicate that the additional camera coverage requirements for SCEs were in addition to the requirements for all Marijuana Establishments (MEs).
 - DGC Baker moved to 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.105(12) and asked Commissioners if they preferred to have carveouts for additional waste disposal options for half consumed products left at SCEs. Commissioners discussed it and DGC Baker volunteered to work offline with EC Goodin to draft a carveout to allow SCEs to dispose of unfinished products which posed a potential fire hazard.
 - The AC moved the discussion to the Marijuana Event Organizer license-type. He explained the working group's decision to include this license due to interest from external stakeholders. Commissioner Roy summarized the staff's recommendation to roll the Marijuana Event Organizer license-type's benefits to the other SCE licenses, cede more enforcement privileges to the municipality and reduce the number of events which could be hosted to once per month.
 - The Commission took a brief recess. (Returned at 04:47:03.)
 - Commissioner Roy asked if flexibility could be added to allow for municipalities to designate a Social Consumption Area to address stakeholders' concerns regarding public use of Cannabis. The ED noted that, if no sales were occurring, the Commission's involvement may not be necessary and EC Goodin clarified that public use of Cannabis was a matter for local law enforcement. Chief of Investigations and Enforcement Nomxolisi Jones (Chief Jones) explained that there had been questions



from stakeholders regarding advertising for temporary events and this may be a good time to revisit those regulations. DGC Baker added that a future version of the draft regulations could benefit from more clarity on the total number of event-days that could be hosted each year. He added further that the regulations had been pulled from Michigan's as well as the ABCC's. Commissioner's discussed temporary events with staff and Commissioner Roy requested an amendment to 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.141(5) to indicate that Licensees must have age verification software.

- DGC Baker asked the group if temporary events should be restricted to a single location. Commissioners discussed and the AC suggested adding this to the July agenda.

2. Regulatory Timeline

- DGC Baker stated that an updated draft of the Social Consumption regulations would be available for the second July meeting which, if approved, would begin the promulgation process. After a Public Hearing, staff would incorporate further edits for a final review in Public Meeting to create a final draft. He stated that the process could be completed by October.

V. New Business Not Anticipated at the Time of Posting – 05:50:41

- The AC stated that there was no new business which was not anticipated at the time of posting.

VI. Next Meeting Date – 05:50:48

- The AC stated that the next meeting was scheduled for July 10, 2025.

VII. Adjournment – 05:50:55

- Commissioner Concepcion moved to adjourn.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the motion to adjourn.

