



10/08 Public Meeting Book Cannabis Control Commission Public Meeting

Table of Contents

Call to Order

10082026 Public Meeting Agenda

Commissioners' Comments/Updates

Executive Director and Commission Staff Report

Social Consumption Project Status Update_October

Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training Renewals

RVTRX-MARIJUANA HANDLERS™.v.2

F-RVTRXS-SEED TALENT

Enforcement Actions

Highminded, LLC

2026.09.28_Highminded_Stipulated Agreement_FINAL_signed

Commission Discussion & Votes

2026 9th Annual Activities Report

3. Discussion of Cultivation Licensing Freeze

Cultivation Moratorium Memo_093026- Chair Christopher Harding

Licensing Freeze Data CCC_with replacement slides 10.7.26

Explanations for Licensing Data Points from MassCIP

New Business Not Anticipated at the Time of Posting

Next Meeting Date & Adjournment

10082026 CCC Public Meeting Presentation v2

October 6, 2026

In accordance with Sections 18-25 of Chapter 30A of the Massachusetts General Laws and Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Cannabis Control Commission. The meeting will take place as noted below.

CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION

**October 8, 2026
10:00 AM**

**Hybrid via [Microsoft Teams](#)* and In-Person at Cannabis Control Commission,
Second Floor Public Meeting Room, Worcester Union Station, 2 Washington Square, Worcester**

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Commissioners' Comments & Updates
- III. Minutes
- IV. Executive Director and Commission Staff Report
 - 1. 10th Anniversary Video and Webpage
 - 2. Social Consumption Regulatory Implementation Update
 - 3. Host Community Municipal Equity Update
 - 4. Licensing Data Updates
- V. Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training Renewals
 - 1. Marijuana Handlers™ (#DCCR794128)
 - 2. Seed Talent (#RVR453169)
- VI. Enforcement Actions
 - 1. Stipulated Agreements
 - i. Highminded, LLC
- VII. Commission Discussion and Votes
 - 1. Ninth Annual Activities Report
 - 2. Administrative License Extension Discussion
 - 3. Discussion of Cultivation Licensing Freeze
 - 4. Discussion of Additional License Freezes
 - 5. Discussion of Chapter 65 Fall Regulatory Round



- VIII. New Business Not Anticipated at the Time of Posting
- IX. Next Meeting Date
- X. Adjournment

*Closed captioning available

If you need reasonable accommodations in order to participate in the meeting, contact the ADA Coordinator Debra Hilton-Creek in advance of the meeting. While the Commission will do its best to accommodate you, certain accommodations may not be available if requested immediately before the meeting.



Social Consumption Regulatory Implementation Project

Project Status Updates: January – October 2026

Project Management Planning

- Finalized charters, established governance, and developed planning tools and project documents
- Launched collaboration sites and established access permissions
- Conducted 4 individual working group kick-off meetings and initiated deliverable planning
- Prioritized deliverables, identified dependencies and risks, and established work sequence
- Established recurring collaboration meeting cadence
- Prepared stakeholder engagement approach.

Detailed Deliverable Planning

- Conducted detailed planning sessions for priority deliverables across all 4 working groups
- Developed process maps and operational workflows to support implementation
- Transitioned from 4 independent working groups to 1 collaborative project structure
- Produced recurring project reporting and public meeting materials
- Planned public education, communications, local advisory, and stakeholder engagement activities
- Reassessed deliverables and refined sequencing to focus resources on priority work

Project Execution & Implementation Readiness

- Facilitate project strategy sessions to align and plan implementation milestones
- Launched electronic municipality out-in form
- Incorporated EPCO requirements to project
- Met with Local Advisory group external stakeholders
- Published RFQ for Public Education procurement
- Incorporating ‘shelf stable food’ and ‘reporting requirements’ to project scope
- Continued review of existing operational processes and documentation to incorporate social consumption
- *New* Held 1st Public Education external stakeholder meeting
- *New* Finalized draft Consumer Information Card and requested feedback from Public Education external stakeholders
- *New* Held 2nd external stakeholder engagement meeting for Local Advisory group
- *New* Drafted opt-in municipal checklist and requested feedback from Local Advisory external stakeholders
- *New* Automation for Municipal tracker in progress
- *New* Published updated Model HCA Template
- *New* Finalized recommendations for off-hours inspection activities
- Responsible Vendor Training – Application live
 - Facilitated external stakeholder meetings to develop Social Consumption curriculum
 - Developed Trainer application and internal review checklist
 - Updated public-facing website content
 - Defined future-state RVT operational processes and improvement opportunities
 - Launched RVT Trainer Application
 - Finalized RVT Trainer Renewal Application
 - Finalized RVT Trainer audit process

- Supplemental License
 - Developed license format, application materials, and system requirements aligned with existing licensing processes.
 - Defined automation needs and assessed implementation timelines
 - Updating HCA guidance documents
 - Finalized license application and internal review checklist
 - Built Supplemental License inspection framework, including scheduling procedures, operational requirements, safety considerations, and supporting resources.
- Hospitality License
 - Scope planning started
 - *New* Licensing & Inspections process map in progress
- Marijuana Event Organizer License
 - Held compliance and enforcement review meeting to discuss requirements
 - *New* Reviewing Temporary Consumption Event (TCE) compliance requirements

Marijuana Handlers™ DCCR794128

RESPONSIBLE VENDOR TRAINING (“RVT”) TRAINER RENEWAL SUMMARY

1. Name, address, and contact information of the RVT trainer:

Item	Information
RVT Trainer Name	Marijuana Handlers™
RVT Certification Number	DCC462290 / DCCR794128
RVT Trainer d/b/a Name	N/A
RVT Address	12005 Wilderness Road, Anchorage AK, 99516
RVT Business Phone Number	800-484-5432
RVT Business Email Address	support@marijuanahandlers.com
RVT Business Website	www.marijuanahandlers.com

2. The RVT trainer has submitted a renewal application to continue to provide a training program for Delivery Core Curriculum.
3. No owner, manager, or employee of the RVT trainer is a Person or Entity Having Direct or Indirect Control of a Marijuana Establishment or Medical Marijuana Treatment Center. The following is a list of all required individuals disclosed:

Individual	Role
George Colman	Owner
Tara Coleman	Controlling Person

OVERVIEW OF TRAINING PROGRAM

4. The RVT trainer was originally certified on September 12, 2024. Since that time, the RVT trainer has provided instructions to 0 Marijuana Establishment and Medical Marijuana Treatment Center agents.
5. The RVT trainer’s program is presented in a virtual format model.
6. The RVT trainer has continued to demonstrate the following:
 - a. Verify the identification and certify completion of the RVT program for each agent;

RVT Renewal Executive Summary 1



- b. Track trainees' time needed to complete the course training;
- c. Allow the trainees to ask questions of the RVT trainer; and
- d. To evaluate each trainee's proficiency with course material.

RESPONSIBLE VENDOR TRAINING CONDITIONS

Commission staff has reviewed the RVT application for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and are presenting it for the Commission's review and vote.

- 1. The RVT trainer shall ensure all training materials reflect current Commission regulations.
- 2. The RVT trainer shall remain fully compliant with all applicable Commission regulations.



Seed Talent
RVR453169

RESPONSIBLE VENDOR TRAINING (“RVT”) TRAINER RENEWAL SUMMARY

1. Name, address, and contact information of the RVT trainer:

Item	Information
RVT Trainer Name	Seed Talent
RVT Certification Number	RV454244 / RVR453169
RVT Trainer d/b/a Name	N/A
RVT Address	171 N Aberdeen Street, Suite 400, Chicago IL 60607
RVT Business Phone Number	414 232-8338
RVT Business Email Address	kurt@seedtalent.com
RVT Business Website	https://seedtalent.com/

2. The RVT trainer has submitted a renewal application to continue to provide a training program for the Basic Core Curriculum.
3. No owner, manager, or employee of the RVT trainer is a Person or Entity Having Direct or Indirect Control of a Marijuana Establishment or Medical Marijuana Treatment Center. The following is a list of all required individuals disclosed:

Individual	Role
Kurt Kaufmann	Owner

OVERVIEW OF TRAINING PROGRAM

4. The RVT trainer was originally certified on November 14, 2024. Since that time, or the time of its last renewal, the RVT trainer has provided instruction to 4,150 Marijuana Establishment and Medical Marijuana Treatment Center agents.
5. The RVT trainer’s program is presented in virtual format model.
6. The RVT trainer has continued to demonstrate the following:
- Verify the identification and certify completion of the RVT program for each agent;
 - Track trainees' time needed to complete the course training;
 - Allow the trainees to ask questions of the RVT trainer; and

RVT Renewal Executive Summary 1



- d. To evaluate each trainee's proficiency with course material.

RESPONSIBLE VENDOR TRAINING CONDITIONS

Commission staff has reviewed the RVT application for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and are presenting it for the Commission's review and vote.

1. The RVT trainer shall ensure all training materials reflect current Commission regulations.
2. The RVT trainer shall remain fully compliant with all applicable Commission regulations.



Highminded, LLC
126 Main Street
Great Barrington, Massachusetts 01230
License Nos. MR282318 & MP281662

Case No. ENF-2025-0000001791

FINAL ORDER AND STIPULATED AGREEMENT

This Final Order and Stipulated Agreement (“Agreement”) is between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (“Commission”) and Highminded, LLC (“Respondent”) (together, “the Parties”).

This Agreement is offered for the purposes of settlement to resolve the Order to Show Cause issued on March 31, 2026 (the “Order to Show Cause”) and any other enforcement action the Commission could have pursued or is pursuing regarding Respondent’s actions that are known or could have reasonably been known to the Commission through the date of this Agreement. The Commission finds that the resolution of this matter serves the purposes of G.L. c. 94G and 935 CMR 500.000 (the “Commonwealth’s marijuana laws”) because Respondent has cooperated with the Commission throughout its investigation and demonstrated a continued commitment to ongoing regulatory compliance.

Accordingly, the Parties stipulate the following Facts of Record and Applicable Law as presented by the Commission in this Agreement, but Respondent neither admits nor denies the Commission’s findings. Respondent enters into this Agreement solely for the purposes of settlement, which shall neither be considered an admission of liability nor a violation of law. Respondent voluntarily agrees to the stipulated remedy contained in Paragraphs 60 through 90. Following the ratification of this Agreement by majority vote of the Commission, this Agreement is binding on the Parties for the purpose of reaching a final resolution.

Legislative, Statutory, and Regulatory Authority

1. The Commission is charged with the administration and enforcement of laws regulating and licensing Marijuana Establishments and maintains jurisdiction over the conduct of Licensees, including their compliance with the Commonwealth’s marijuana laws, G.L. c. 94G, and regulations, 935 CMR 500.000 *et seq.* See G.L. c. 94G, § 4(a), (a½);
2. The Commission possesses all powers necessary or convenient to carry out and effectuate its purpose including, but not limited to, conducting investigations of compliance with the Commonwealth’s marijuana laws and imposing fines, suspension, revocation, or otherwise restricting a license for violations of G.L. c. 94I, G.L. c. 94G, or any regulation promulgated by the Commission. See G.L. c. 94G, § 4(a)(xi), (xiii), (xv), (xvii), and (xxii);



3. The Commission also has the power to promulgate regulations and to adopt, amend, or repeal regulations for the implementation, administration, and enforcement of G.L. c. 94G. *See* G.L. c. 94G, § 4(a)(xxiv), (xxviii);
4. Accordingly, the Commission has adopted regulations for the administration, clarification and enforcement of laws regulating Marijuana Establishments, including 935 CMR 500.360, which provides that the Commission “may issue an order to a Licensee to show cause as to why a fine or other financial penalty against a Licensee...should not be imposed for any acts or omissions determined to be in violation of the state Marijuana laws, including M.G.L. c. 94G, and 935 CMR 500.000”;
5. Pursuant to that regulatory provision, the Commission may assess an administrative fine of up to \$50,000 for each violation, or an order for corrective action setting a reasonable time for correction of the violation, or both. 935 CMR 500.360(2);
6. Each day during which a violation continues may constitute a separate offense, and each instance and provision of the state Marijuana laws that is violated may constitute a separate violation. 935 CMR 500.360(2)(b);
7. In determining the amount of a fine or financial penalty to impose, the Commission or a Commission Delegee may consider a greater or lesser amount depending on aggravating or mitigating circumstances identified by the agency. 935 CMR 500.360(3);
8. At any time, the Commission or a Commission Delegee may, in its discretion, review, approve or reject an informal disposition, but only on a showing that the alleged violations have been corrected, and a submission of a written waiver of its right to judicial review. *See* 935 CMR 500.500(7); *see also* G.L. c. 30A, § 10 (agencies have the authority to make informal dispositions by stipulation or settlement);

Facts of Record

9. Respondent is a Marijuana Retailer and Marijuana Product Manufacturer that is authorized by the Commission to operate at 126 Main Street, Great Barrington, Massachusetts 01050;
10. Pursuant to the Massachusetts Cannabis Information Portal, ownership and control of Respondent is split between Alexander Farnsworth (“A. Farnsworth”), Adam Lippes (“A. Lippes”), and Brayden Farnsworth (“B. Farnsworth”) (together, the “Owners”), at 51%, 39%, and 10% equity interest and control¹, respectively;

¹ Respondent, through its renewal application, intends to modify the current ownership and control percentages to reflect that A. Farnsworth holds 37.7% ownership and control, A. Lippes holds 31.4% ownership and control, and B. Farnsworth holds 9.9% ownership and control.

11. The Commission granted Respondent final licenses (License Nos. MR282318 and MP281662) on November 19, 2020, and Respondent received notice from the Commission that it may commence operations on February 17, 2021;
12. On February 7, 2024, a large quantity of Respondent's Marijuana and Marijuana Products (herein, "Marijuana Products") were stolen from 105 Main Street after a burglary;
13. 105 Main Street is a small building with offices that was utilized by Respondent's Owners and staff and had signage with Respondent's brand name;
14. Respondent reported to the Great Barrington police department (GBPD) that multiple items were stolen from the property, including staff appreciation samples of Marijuana Products;
15. Respondent did not report the theft of these staff appreciation samples from 105 Main Street to the Commission;
16. On February 9, 2024, Commission Investigators conducted an unannounced inspection at Respondent's facility after learning of the theft of Marijuana Products from the GBPD;
17. During the inspection, Investigators asked B. Farnsworth about 105 Main Street. He explained that it is an office space Respondent utilizes and later explained that Respondent had kept staff appreciation samples of Marijuana Products at the location;
18. B. Farnsworth further explained that Respondent sold Marijuana Products to employees as customers and then the employee gifted the Marijuana Products back to the Owners to be taken over to 105 Main Street and stored with other samples as part of its staff appreciation program;
19. In addition to taking Marijuana Products to 105 Main Street, Owners and employees also took Marijuana Products to 118 Main Street for temporary storage;
20. 105 and 118 Main Street are not included as part of the Premises authorized by the Commission for Respondent to operate or store Marijuana Products;
21. Respondent did not track any of the Marijuana Products stored off-Premises in Metrc, the Commission's designated Seed-to-sale Electronic Tracking System, and employee purchases were not noted or identified in Metrc;
22. Respondent did not have a written operating procedure for its staff appreciation program or the process described by B. Farnsworth, at the time of this inspection²;

² A written operating procedure was later provided to the Commission.

23. According to Respondent's Metrc records, from February 17, 2021, to February 9, 2024, there are 1,502 sales receipts for Marijuana Products with a total transaction price of \$1.00 or less, averaging approximately \$0.12 per transaction;
24. On February 15, 2024, the Commission issued a Notice of Deficiency (NOD) resulting from its February 9, 2024 inspection;
25. On January 22, 2025, the Commission issued a bulletin that reiterated the requirement for all Licensees to have and follow standard operating procedures relative to Vendor Samples, Quality Control, and Employee Discount programs;
26. Prior to the Commission's bulletin, from February 9, 2024, to October 1, 2025, Respondent issued 796 sales receipts for Marijuana Products at discounted prices;
27. On October 2, 2025, Commission Investigators conducted an unannounced inspection at Respondent's facility;
28. During the inspection, Investigators spoke with A. Farnsworth, B. Farnsworth, and other employees regarding Respondent's staff appreciation program and discounted sales;
29. Investigators learned that staff appreciation samples are Marijuana Products sent to Respondent from other Licensees that Respondent sells to employees for discounted amounts;
30. Investigators further learned that employees complete a form outlining their experience after purchasing staff appreciation samples;
31. Investigators were told that the employee discount policy is "cost plus an additional 20% off";
32. Investigators reviewed security footage from July 26-29, 2025, that captured certain discounted sales and determined that the Marijuana Products were sold to A. Farnsworth, B. Farnsworth, and other employees;
33. In the security footage, A. Farnsworth, B. Farnsworth, and other employees can be seen taking Marijuana Products to the parking lot and towards 118 Main Street, however, Respondent's cameras no longer capture video directed at 118 Main Street;
34. When asked about these transactions, Investigators were told that those Marijuana Products were close to expiration, so Owners decided to purchase the products instead of wasting and used an executive code to apply an employee discount;
35. Investigators spoke to A. Farnsworth separately about Respondent's discounting practices, he said that some customers can purchase Marijuana Products for discounted prices;

36. Respondent's policy of selling Marijuana Products for discounted prices as described by A. Farnsworth and other employees was not contained in any of Respondent's SOPs;
37. When asked about discounted Marijuana Products, A. Farnsworth said that Respondent stopped that practice after the Commission issued the bulletin, but when asked about recent sales of heavily discounted Marijuana Products, A. Farnsworth said those items were close to expiration and rather than wasting the Marijuana Products they were sold at a discount to the Owners to get the products out of the store;
38. B. Farnsworth also confirmed that Respondent's employee discount policy is "cost plus an additional 20% off" and that employees can purchase staff appreciation samples and Marijuana Products that fail to meet internal quality control assessments at a reduced price;
39. Respondent's employee discount policy described by A. Farnsworth, B. Farnsworth, and other employees was not included in any of Respondent's SOPs;
40. B. Farnsworth stated that Respondent stopped its prior practice of selling Marijuana Products to employees on behalf of Respondent and that any large quantities of discounted Marijuana Products were for Marijuana Products close to expiration and were sold to the Owners;
41. On October 8, 2025, in response to a Request for Information regarding certain Penny Sales of Marijuana Products, Respondent stated that those customers were given a "discretionary courtesy discount" of up to 99% that was authorized by either the on-duty manager, management, or Ownership;
42. Respondent does not have an SOP describing how it applies a "discretionary courtesy discount";
43. According to Respondent's Metrc records, from October 2, 2025, to January 30, 2026, Respondent completed 78 additional discounted sales;
44. On March 31, 2026, the Commission issued the Order to Show Cause to Respondent seeking the imposition of a monetary penalty due to noncompliant operations;
45. From June to September, 2026, the Parties engaged in negotiations relative to an informal disposition of this matter through counsel resulting in the proposed terms presented in this Agreement;

Applicable Law

46. Licensees may utilize employee discounts as part of the Marijuana Establishment's operating policy and procedure for prevention of diversion pursuant to 935 CMR 500.101(1)(c)8.b. Institution of an employee discount program under 935 CMR

500.101(1)(c)8.b. shall not be considered a prohibited practice under 935 CMR 500.105(4)(b). 935 CMR 500.105(4)(a)9.;

47. In addition to the written operating policies required under 935 CMR 500.105(1), a Marijuana Product Manufacturer shall maintain written policies and procedures for the production or distribution of Marijuana Products as applicable, which shall include policies and procedures for developing and providing Vendor Samples to a Marijuana Retailer and Quality Control Samples to employees. *See* 935 CMR 500.130(5)(j)-(k);
48. In addition to the written operating policies required under 935 CMR 500.105(1), a Marijuana Retailer shall maintain written policies and procedures which shall include: (a) Policies and procedures for adequately tracking, recording, and documenting all Vendor Samples that the Marijuana Retailer receives from a Marijuana Cultivators or a Marijuana Product Manufacturer; and (b) Policies and procedures for adequately tracking, recording, and documenting all Vendor Samples that the Marijuana Retailer provides to employees for the purpose of assessing product quality and determining whether to make the product available to sell, in compliance with 935 CMR 500.140(15). 935 CMR 500.140(11);
49. No Marijuana Establishment may cultivate, process, test, store or manufacture Marijuana or Marijuana Products at any location other than at a physical address approved by the Commission and within an area that is enclosed and secured in a manner that prevents access by persons not permitted by the Marijuana Establishment to access the area.... G.L. c. 94G, § 12(b);
50. A Marijuana Establishment shall notify appropriate Law Enforcement Authorities and the Commission of any breach of security or other reportable incident defined in 935 CMR 500.110(9) immediately and, in no instance, more than 24 hours following discovery of the breach or incident. Notification shall occur...if there is diversion, theft, or loss of any Marijuana Product. 935 CMR 500.110(9)(a)2.;

Commission Findings

51. Based on the forgoing, the Commission finds as follows:
- a. Respondent's practice of distributing Quality Control and Vendor samples and selling discounted Marijuana Products to employees and Owners, as well as offering arbitrary "discretionary courtesy discounts" of up to 99% off Marijuana Products to customers without written operating procedures governing or tracking the application of these discounts constitute violations of 935 CMR 500.105(1)(p), 935 CMR 500.105(4)(a)9., 935 CMR 500.130(5)(j)-(k), and 935 CMR 500.140(11):
- From February 17, 2021, to January 30, 2026, there are 2,376 instances where Respondent sold discounted Marijuana Products;
 - At least six transactions on February 4, 2024, and February 5, 2024, are attributable to Respondent's staff appreciation process where Marijuana

- Products were improperly stored at 105 and 118 Main Street in violation of G.L. c. 94G, § 12(b);
- iii. Respondent did not have a written operating procedure for its staff appreciation program;
 - iv. According to Respondent, it allowed employees to purchase Marijuana Products at “cost plus an additional 20% off” and that employees utilizing this discount were required to fill out a form;
 - v. Respondent did not have a written operating procedure for this employee discount program;
 - vi. According to Respondent, some Marijuana Products were sold to customers as part of a “discretionary courtesy discount” where Marijuana Products could be discounted up to 99% by management;
 - vii. Respondent did not have a written operating procedure for its discretionary courtesy discount; and
 - viii. Respondent’s records do not indicate whether these sales were to employees, Owners, or consumers, and therefore the Commission is unable to independently verify;
- b. Respondent’s Owners stored Marijuana Products and conducted related activities at separate unauthorized and unsecure locations constituting violations of G.L. c. 94G, § 12(b):
- i. Respondent stored a large quantity of Marijuana Products intended to be used as “staff appreciation samples” at 105 and 118 Main Street;
 - ii. Neither 105 or 118 Main Street are approved locations for Respondent to operate or store Marijuana Products; and
 - iii. On February 7, 2025, a large quantity of Marijuana Products were stolen from 105 Main Street;
- c. Respondent failed to notify the Commission of theft of Marijuana Products, a reportable incident, within 24 hours of discovery on February 7, 2024, in violation of 935 CMR 500.110(9)(a)2.;
52. Respondent has cooperated with Commission staff since the Commission’s issuance of the Order to Show Cause, has corrected the violations alleged in this Agreement and agrees to take further corrective action as detailed below;
53. Respondent neither admits nor denies the findings set forth in Paragraph 51, inclusive of all subparagraphs. Respondent enters into this Agreement solely for the purposes of settlement. This Agreement shall neither be considered an admission of liability nor a violation of law for any purpose, or as evidence supporting the allegations of the Commission.

Stipulated Remedy

54. The Commission, through its Executive Director, and Respondent have come to mutual agreement and understanding and jointly propose a resolution of the alleged violations in

lieu of proceeding with an administrative hearing to determine the merits of such allegations and Respondent consents to the terms and conditions set forth in Paragraphs 56 through 86, inclusive of all subparagraphs;

55. The terms and conditions of this Agreement are expressly subject to ratification by the full Commission. Pursuant to G.L. c. 6, § 223(e) as amended by St. 2026 c. 65, § 1, two Commissioners shall constitute a quorum, and the affirmative vote of two Commissioners shall be required for ratification of this Agreement;

56. Respondent agrees to the imposition of a **14-day suspension** of the following licenses and all affiliated agent registrations starting on November 1, 2026, and ending on November 14, 2026 (the “period of suspension”):

Final License	MR282318	Retailer	Great Barrington, MA
Final License	MP281662	Product Manufacturer	Great Barrington, MA

57. During the period of suspension, Respondent shall cease all licensed operations at its Premises, excluding certain inventory audits and clean-up efforts as authorized by the Commission, and shall prohibit anyone from accessing said Premises with the exception of necessary personnel identified and authorized by the Commission, Commission staff, local law enforcement, or emergency personnel, as needed;

58. Not later than October 22, 2026, Respondent shall submit to its assigned Investigator a short-term plan for facility maintenance, resolution of any existing noncompliance, implementation of affirmative relief outlined in this Agreement, and plans for staff training during the period of suspension;

59. Respondent has submitted written operating procedures for its use of owner, management, employee and customer discounts, as well as quality control and vendor sample programs to its lead Investigator. Respondent is prohibited from utilizing any of these programs until the written operating procedures are approved by its lead Investigator, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld and if not approved within thirty (30) days of the ratification of this Agreement, shall be deemed granted. Respondent’s written operating procedures must include provisions that: (1) establish limits on the amount of Marijuana distributed or discounted pursuant to these programs, consistent with existing regulations; and (2) describe how Respondent will track the use of these programs in a manner that is auditable by the Commission;

60. Respondent agrees to pay a negotiated monetary penalty in the amount of **thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00)** made payable by checks or money orders to the order of the Cannabis Control Commission Marijuana Regulation Fund;

a. Payment shall consist of the following installments due and payable in accordance with the following schedule, however Respondent may pay more than the specified amount if they are able:

Payment	Due Date
\$10,000	Within 30 days of ratification
\$5,000	January 1, 2027
\$5,000	April 1, 2027
\$5,000	July 1, 2027
\$5,000	October 1, 2027

- b. If Respondent fails to timely remit any payment due in accordance with this paragraph, at the option of the Commission with notice to Respondent, the entire balance shall be due and payable within 14 days of said notice;
61. Payments shall be postmarked on or before the due dates identified in Paragraph 64.a. and be mailed to the following address:
- a. Via USPS:
Cannabis Control Commission
PO Box 412144
Boston, MA 02241-2144
- b. Via Courier/Overnight:
Bank of America Lockbox Services
Cannabis Control Commission 412144
MA5-527-02-07
2 Morrissey Boulevard
Dorchester, MA 02125
62. Respondent shall donate **five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00)** to the Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund (“SEFT”) on or before November 1, 2027. Respondent shall provide proof of said donation to Enforcement@CCCMass.com within 5 days of remittance;
- a. If Respondent fails to make timely payment to the SETF in accordance with this Paragraph, at the option of the Commission with notice to Respondent, Respondent’s Licenses may be suspended indefinitely until payment is remitted to the SETF;
63. Respondent further agrees to a **12-month probationary period** (the “probationary period”) for its Licenses starting on the date this Agreement is ratified;
64. During the probationary period, Respondent’s Owners are each limited to the purchase of 2 ounces of Marijuana or its concentrate equivalent per month at a discounted rate identified in any applicable SOP;

65. During the probationary period, any noncompliance with the following requirements will result in automatic assessments, subject to reasonable notice and opportunity to cure prior, which may be accepted by the Commission at its discretion, to the imposition of an automatic assessment:
- a. For any exceedance the monthly discount purchase limit imposed on Owners pursuant to Paragraph 64:
 - i. A two hundred and fifty dollar (\$250.00) fine for the first defaulted obligation;
 - ii. A five hundred dollar (\$500.00) fine for each subsequent instance.
 - b. For exceeding vendor or quality control sample limitations, unexplained discounts, or discounts deviating from written operating procedures approved pursuant to Paragraph 59:
 - i. A two hundred and fifty dollar (\$250.00) fine for the first defaulted obligation;
 - ii. A 1-day suspension of Respondent's Marijuana Retail License for each subsequent instance.
 - c. For any operations or storage of Marijuana at unapproved locations in violation of G.L. c. 94G, 12(b):
 - i. Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and a 1-day suspension of all Respondent's Licenses for the first instance;
 - ii. Revocation of Respondent's Licenses upon any subsequent instances.
66. Respondent agrees to waive any hearing right pursuant to Commission regulations or Massachusetts law to contest or challenge any automatic assessment imposed by Paragraph 65, subject to any reasonable opportunity to cure;
67. Upon receiving a demand for payment from the Commission in accordance with Paragraph 65, inclusive of its subparagraphs, Respondent shall provide such payment by check or money order payable to the Cannabis Control Commission Marijuana Regulation Fund within 30 days. Payments for automatic assessments shall be mailed to the addresses contained in Paragraph 61, as applicable;
68. The agreed monetary penalty under Paragraph 60 and any subsequent automatic assessments under Paragraph 65 constitute fines or financial penalties that may be added to Respondent's fee for licensure renewal if due and payable and unpaid at that time under 935 CMR 500.360(6), subject to any reasonable opportunity to cure pursuant to Paragraph 65;
69. Respondent's suspension, fine, implementation of affirmative relief, and completion of the probationary period satisfy the violations alleged in the Order to Show Cause;
70. Respondent will not be subject to a Mandatory Disqualification or a Presumptive Negative Suitability Determination solely for the violations contained in this Agreement, nor will this Agreement be utilized in connection with an adverse determination for a change of ownership or change of control with respect to Respondent's cannabis license;

71. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Commission may rely on this Agreement to establish a pattern or practice of noncompliance when calculating a fine, the duration of a suspension, or to support a revocation during subsequent enforcement actions against Respondent, its owners, or Agents;
72. Any issues relating to the underlying investigation and Order to Show Cause that formed the basis for this Agreement against Respondent, and any defenses that Respondent may have to the investigation or Order to Show Cause, shall not be at issue in a proceeding against Respondent for failing to comply with the terms of this Agreement;
73. Respondent agrees that the Commission may consider this Agreement and the facts and circumstances described herein in connection with review of an application for licensure or renewal of licensure, provided that this Agreement alone will not support an adverse determination following the review;
74. Respondent enters into this Agreement solely for the purposes of settlement. This Agreement shall neither be considered an admission of liability nor a violation of law for any purpose, nor as evidence supporting the allegations of the Commission;
75. By entering into this Agreement, Respondent acknowledges that it has been advised of its right to a hearing and nonetheless wishes to resolve all issues that were the subject of this investigation or in any way related to this investigation and Agreement;
76. If approved by the Commission and upon execution of all Parties, this Agreement shall have the same force and effect as an order entered after a hearing conducted in accordance with G.L. c. 30A pursuant to 935 CMR 500.500(12), except that this Agreement may not be appealed. Failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement, including but not limited to failure to make a timely payment in accordance with Paragraphs 60 through 67, shall constitute the basis for further administrative action against Respondent;
77. Respondent acknowledges that the Commission advised Respondent of its opportunity to consult with an attorney of its choosing and Respondent represents that it had an opportunity to do so prior to signing this Agreement. Respondent acknowledges that it has been given a reasonable period of time in which to consider the terms of this Agreement before signing it. Respondent acknowledges and confirms that it has entered into this Agreement voluntarily and of its own free will, without duress or coercion, and that it is competent to enter into this Agreement. Respondent acknowledges that it has carefully read and fully understands the meaning and intent of this Agreement;
78. Respondent further understands and knowingly and voluntarily waives the following rights:
 - a. The right to proceed with an adjudicatory proceeding;
 - b. The right to subpoena and cross-examine witnesses, present evidence and testify on Respondent's own behalf at that adjudicatory proceeding; and

- c. The right to appeal this Agreement or otherwise seek judicial review pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 14;
79. This Agreement is subject to ratification by the Commission. Upon ratification, this Agreement becomes binding on the Parties. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions herein may result in administrative action against Respondent up to and including suspension or revocation of licensure under 935 CMR 500.450;
80. Upon ratification of this Agreement, it shall represent the entire and final agreement of the Parties. If any provision of this Agreement is deemed unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be severed, and the remainder of this Agreement shall be given full force and effect;
81. This Agreement shall be binding upon Respondents and shall inure to the benefit of the parties to this Agreement and their respective successors and assignees and shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Further, in accordance with G.L. c. 94G, § 19, the Commission may record this Agreement, which shall then constitute a debt to the Commonwealth and shall have priority over any encumbrance recorded, registered or filed with respect to any site;
82. Upon ratification of this Agreement by the Commission, this Agreement shall become a permanent part of Respondent's record and shall be open to public inspection and disclosure pursuant to the Commission's standard policies and procedures or applicable law;
83. The Commission may reject the terms of this Agreement or otherwise deny ratification and entry of this Agreement. In such event, the terms of this Agreement shall be null, and void and the Parties may proceed to hearing, and this Agreement shall not be used as evidence against Respondent in connection with such proceeding;
84. This Agreement may be executed by e-mail and any signature delivered by either email or first-class mail shall be deemed to be as valid as an original signature;
85. All costs and expenses incurred by Respondent to comply with this Agreement shall be the sole responsibility of Respondent and shall not in any way be the obligation of the Commission, and Respondent shall not be responsible for any costs and expenses of the Commission related to the preparation, negotiation or enforcement of this Agreement; and
86. For purposes of addressing any future violations of this Agreement, applicable law or regulations shall be construed to include all amendments and revisions to said law or regulations that are in effect at the time of the subsequent violation.

[SIGNATURE BLOCK ON NEXT PAGE]

Respondent Highminded, LLC d/b/a Farnsworth Fine Cannabis



Alexander Farnsworth, Owner

October 1, 2026

Date Signed



Brayden Farnsworth, Owner

October 1, 2026

Date Signed

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission

Ratified by Commission vote (___ yes, ___ no, ___ abstain) on October 8, 2026.

Travis Ahern, Executive Director

Date Signed



Annual Report

FY2026





TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION STATEMENT	1
COMMISSIONERS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	2
FY26 BY THE NUMBERS	3
INTRODUCTION	5
IMPLEMENTATION OF ADULT- AND MEDICAL-USE MARIJUANA PROGRAMS	7
Purpose	7
Executing the Commission's Mission	7
Ongoing Regulatory Work	7
Revenue	9
Finance	10
Personnel	11
Licensing	12
Agents	15
Medical Use of Marijuana Program	17
Investigations and Enforcement	18
Equity Programming and Community Outreach	22
Communications	27
Constituent Services	33
Government Affairs and Policy	34
Legal	36
Research	39
CONCLUSION	42



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Cannabis Control Commission is to honor the will of the voters of Massachusetts by safely, equitably and effectively implementing and administering the laws enabling access to medical and adult-use marijuana in the Commonwealth.

The Commission will foster the creation of a safely regulated industry that will create entrepreneurial and employment opportunities and incremental tax revenues in and to communities across the state and which will be a best practice model for other states. The industry will be characterized by participation by small and larger participants and with full and robust participation by minorities, women and veterans. We will develop policies and procedures to encourage and enable full participation in the marijuana industry by people from communities that have previously been disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and enforcement and positively impact those communities.

COMMISSIONERS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Xiomara Albán DeLobato
Commissioner
May 2026 – Current



Christopher Harding
Chair
May 2026 – Current



Anthony Wilson
Commissioner
May 2026 – Current



Travis Ahern
March 2025 – Current
Executive Director

FY26 BY THE NUMBERS



\$260M

Sales and
Excise Tax



\$16.4M

Non-Tax
Revenue



\$10B

Gross Cannabis Sales
*as of September 2026



38

Public
Meetings



\$156M

Record Sales in the
Month of June 2026



30,000

Constituent
Phone Calls

The Industry to Date



690

Marijuana
Establishments



91

Medical Marijuana
Establishments



1,667

Compliant Host
Community Agreements



18,523

Unique Registered
Agents



1,275

Social Equity Program
Participants



76,289

Certified
Active Patients



INTRODUCTION

This year marks a period of significant transition and progress for the Cannabis Control Commission (Commission). Throughout fiscal year 2026, the Commission remained focused on protecting public health and safety, promoting equitable participation in the cannabis industry, ensuring regulatory compliance, and supporting a stable, transparent marketplace through licensing, enforcement, research, public engagement, and policy development.

Among the Commission's most significant accomplishments during FY2026 was the adoption and implementation of regulations authorizing social consumption establishments, creating the Commonwealth's first regulatory framework for licensed on-site cannabis use. Developed through an extensive public engagement process and informed by stakeholders across government, industry, public health, and local communities, the regulations established new license categories, operational standards, public safety requirements, responsible vendor training, and municipal participation processes designed to support a safe and measured rollout of social consumption in Massachusetts.

Throughout the fiscal year, the Commission undertook an extensive body of regulatory work including extending the exclusivity period for delivery licenses and improving the Secret Shopper testing program. These actions reflect the Commission's continued effort to modernize its regulatory framework, expand access, and strengthen consumer protection while maintaining a focus on equity.

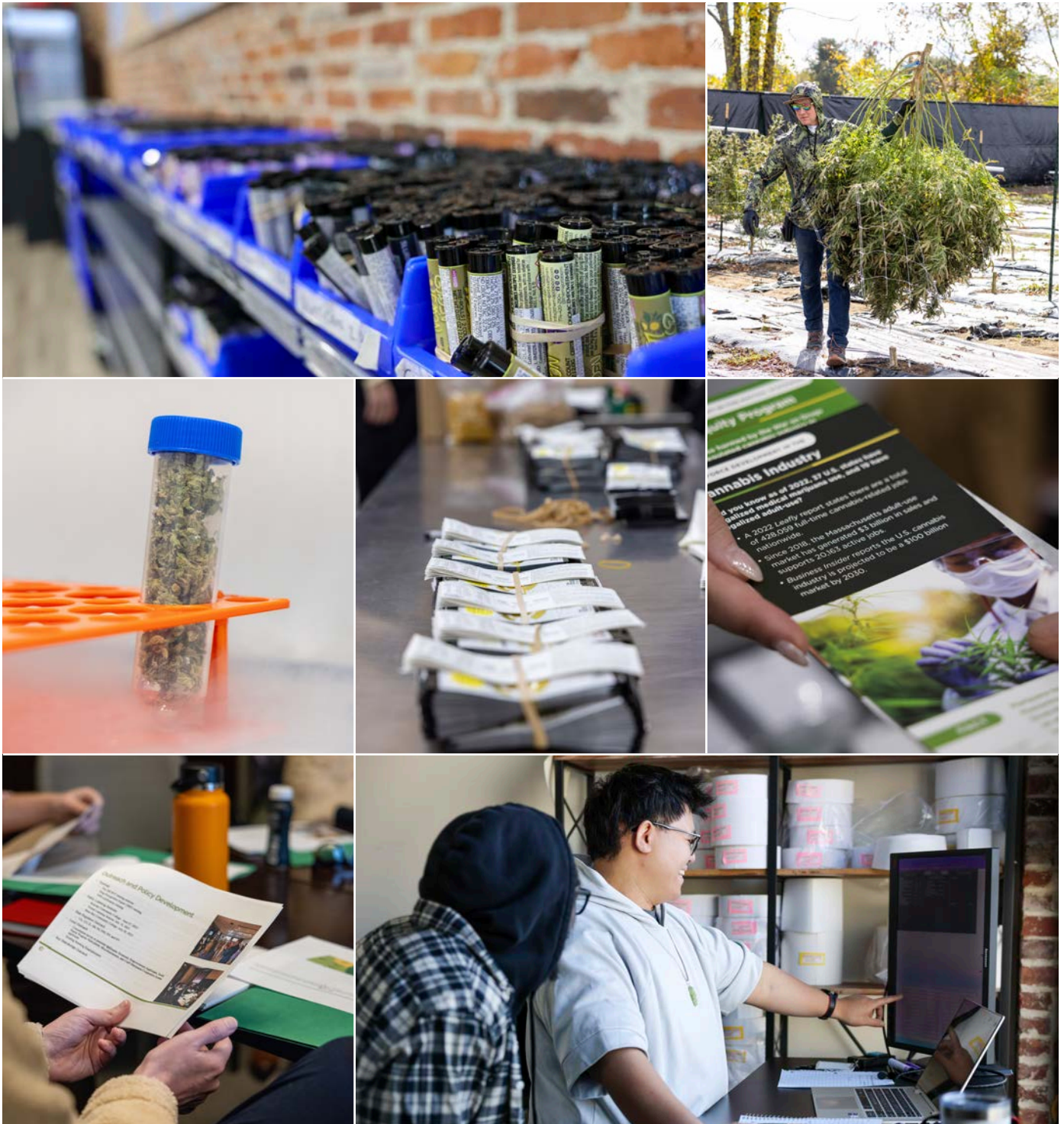
At the same time, the Commission continued to carry out its core responsibilities. The agency oversaw nearly 800 active adult-use and medical licenses, conducted inspections and audits, reviewed Host Community Agreements (HCAs), maintained the Medical Use of Marijuana Program, advanced equity programming and workforce development, and provided guidance and support to municipalities and licensees.

The Commission also continued to engage municipalities, state and local partners, public health officials, industry participants, the news media, and members of the public through regular public meetings, listening sessions, guidance documents, and outreach initiatives. These collaborative efforts supported implementation of new statutory requirements, provided opportunities for public input, and strengthened coordination with local governments as cannabis regulation continued to evolve across the Commonwealth.

Following the enactment of Ch. 65 of the Acts of 2026: *An Act Modernizing the Commonwealth's Cannabis Laws* on April 19, the Commission began implementing the most substantial updates to the state's cannabis regulatory framework since legalization. The law restructured the agency to a three-member Commission, providing clearer authority intended to strengthen oversight, improve accountability, and support the long-term stability of the industry. Governor Healey's appointments of Chair Christopher Harding, and Commissioners Xiomara Albán DeLobato and Anthony Wilson bring new leadership and experience to the agency at an important moment for the Commonwealth. In the final months of the fiscal year, the Commission promulgated emergency regulations required under Ch. 65 to increase retail license caps, adjust financial interest thresholds, increase daily purchase limits, and begin the process of ending the medical marijuana vertical integration requirement. Simultaneously, the Commission began the extensive implementation work required by the new law,

including updating licensing systems, developing new guidance and procedures, and coordinating internal and external working groups.

This report reflects both the scale of change and the agency's commitment to maintaining stability, accountability, and public trust during a period of substantial modernization. Although significant work remains to fully implement statutory reforms and operational updates, the Commission continues to work diligently to support a safe, equitable, and well-regulated cannabis marketplace for patients, consumers, businesses, and communities throughout Massachusetts.



IMPLEMENTATION OF ADULT- AND MEDICAL-USE MARIJUANA PROGRAMS

Purpose

This report provides an overview of the implementation and operation of the adult-use cannabis program and the Medical Use of Marijuana Program during FY2026. This report summarizes key activities, regulatory developments, licensing and enforcement actions, and public facing initiatives, with data current as of June 30, 2026, unless otherwise noted. This annual report fulfills the Commission's statutory obligations under G.L. c. 94G, § 4(h) and St. 2017, c. 55, § 31 by providing the Legislature with a transparent account of the agency's performance and priorities.

Executing the Commission's Mission

Established in 2017, the Commission is responsible for implementing and administering Massachusetts' adult-use and medical cannabis laws pursuant to G.L. c. 94G, G.L. c. 94I, and related statutes. The Commission's duty is to ensure safe, equitable, and effective access to cannabis in Massachusetts by regulating its cultivation, manufacture, testing, distribution, and sale. In fulfilling this mission, the Commission prioritizes public health, product safety, equity in the marketplace, and protections for consumers and communities.

Since publishing its first regulations in 2018, the Commission has amended its rules regularly to reflect statutory changes, expand opportunities for licensees, and improve patient access. Major milestones include assuming oversight of the Medical Use of Marijuana Program from the Department of Public Health in 2018, the 2021 regulatory overhaul that consolidated collocated operations into existing frameworks, the 2023 implementation of Ch. 180 of the Acts of 2022, and the 2024 amendments easing delivery restrictions and increasing patient access. Most recently, the Commission adopted regulatory updates establishing Social Consumption Establishments, modifying Transporter license requirements, and updating agent registration rules. The Commission is also actively implementing Ch. 65 of the Acts of 2026, which requires a wide-ranging review and modernization of its regulatory frameworks, equity programs, licensing requirements, administrative operations, and the Medical Use of Marijuana Program.

Ongoing Regulatory Work

In FY2026, the Commission continued its practice of using specialized working groups to evaluate and respond to emerging needs across the regulated cannabis industry. These groups convene subject-matter experts from multiple departments to conduct in-depth research, review and implement statutory

changes, develop recommendations for regulatory revisions, and coordinate cross-agency initiatives. By leveraging diverse expertise, the Commission's working groups ensure that complex issues are identified and addressed in a comprehensive and timely manner. For FY2026, the Commission invited external stakeholders to participate in several working groups to get information and perspective. Several key areas of focus in FY2026 included the review of new legislation, the refinement of regulatory frameworks, and the advancement of projects requiring collaboration across the agency's operational, policy, and compliance divisions.

In addition to regulations, the Commission issues guidance documents to assist consumers, patients, licensees, applicants, and municipalities with understanding and complying with regulatory requirements. The agency currently has [20 guidance documents and three protocols](#) available on the Commission's website.

Social Consumption

The Social Consumption Regulatory Working Group continued its work through 2025, which culminated in the promulgation of final Commission social consumption regulations and new social consumption license types. In December 2024, the Commission unveiled a proposed regulatory framework that established three new Social Consumption Establishment licenses and opened an informal public comment period to gather initial feedback. Commissioners then met in public session throughout spring and summer 2025 to further discuss the draft regulations and make additional changes. On July 29, 2025, Commissioners voted to approve draft regulations relating to Social Consumption Establishments, marking the beginning of the Secretary of the Commonwealth's formal promulgation process, including the required public comment period, which closed in September 2025. Following receipt and review of public comments, Commissioners worked with staff to finalize the regulations in December 2025.

The Commission's focus has now shifted to implementation of the new regulations and the new license types. The Commission has established four new implementation-focused working groups. Implementation of the new license types and rollout of social consumption will depend on funding and resources made available to support the development of IT infrastructure for license applications, a public education campaign, continued roundtables with municipal leaders, operational updates, guidance documents, and inspections.

Delivery Exclusivity

In March, the Commission extended the existing delivery exclusivity period for an additional 36 months to April 2029 after partnering with the UMass Donohue Institute to conduct an in-depth analysis of regulatory criteria to determine if the goals of the exclusivity period had been met. The Donahue Institute analysis concluded—and the Commission agreed—that an additional extension was required to allow stakeholders from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition to achieve “full participation” in Massachusetts' cannabis delivery industry. Consistent with its statutory mandate and the Commission's duty to redress the historically unequal enforcement of cannabis laws against disadvantaged groups, these license types will be limited to equity participants for an additional three-year period to allow the delivery market to mature.

Ch. 65 of the Acts of 2026

On April 19, 2026, Governor Healey signed Ch. 65 of the Acts of 2026: An Act Modernizing the Commonwealth's Cannabis Laws. The legislation makes significant changes to the Commission's structure and operations and includes a long list of required regulatory changes that must be enacted on a compressed timeline. The regulatory changes are far-reaching and include, for example, ownership and control provisions, license caps, advertising and medical license de-verticalization. While some of the regulatory changes had a 60-day deadline (and required the promulgation of emergency regulations), the majority of changes must be completed within one year. In order to meet the aggressive timelines, the Commission has established numerous working groups to complete the work.

Revenue

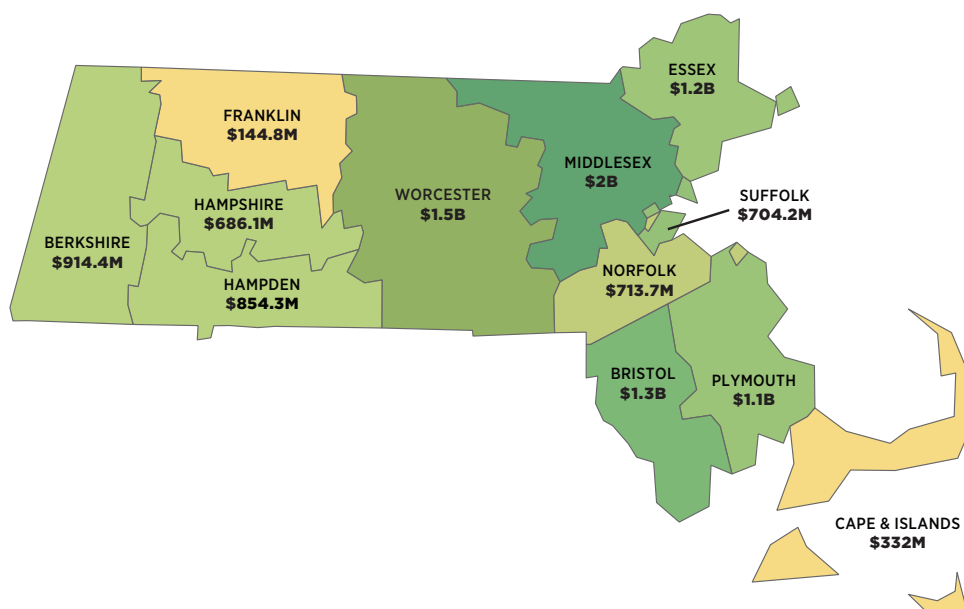
The Commission is proud to have continued to operate on a cost-neutral basis. In fact, as this report shows, the Commission's activities have enabled annual increases in Commonwealth tax receipts. Revenue from application, licensing, fines, and other fees, along with adult-use marijuana sales and excise tax revenue, is deposited into the Marijuana Regulation Fund. In FY2026, the Commission collected \$16.4 million in non-tax revenue. The Massachusetts Department of Revenue reported a total of \$260 million in marijuana sales tax revenue and marijuana excise tax revenue collected as of May. Monthly gross sales continued to increase with record-breaking numbers in the early months of 2025.

Adult-use licensees realized remarkable sales achievements in FY2026 with June 2026 setting a new record for a single month at \$156 million in gross sales. In September 2026, cannabis industry has surpassed \$10 billion in gross sales since the first two adult-use retail stores on the East Coast opened for business on Nov. 20, 2018. The ongoing trajectory is expected to continue in FY2027 even with the expansion of cannabis legalization in surrounding New England states.

These increases are expected to continue due to the highly anticipated Social Consumption Establishment license types becoming available and the increasing number of Marijuana Establishments obtaining licensure.



Gross Sales for Marijuana Establishments and Medical Marijuana Establishments



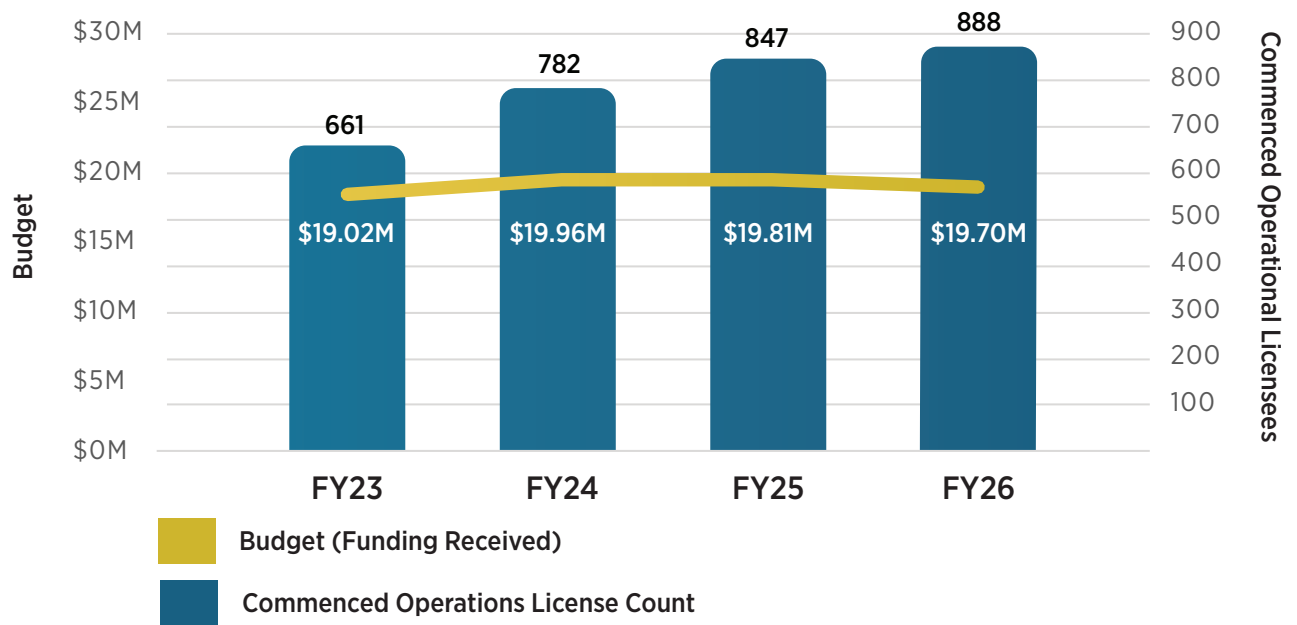
Finance

Despite generating substantial revenue for the Commonwealth, the Commission's appropriations have remained flat or been reduced, constraining its ability to reinvest in programs and infrastructure that sustain the industry's growth. Commission operations are funded through the Marijuana Regulation Fund, which is subject to appropriation and also supports public health and safety needs, substance use disorder prevention, programming for restorative justice, jail diversion, workforce development, and the Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund administered by the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED), among other uses.

In FY2026, the Legislature appropriated \$19.7 million in total for the Commission: \$16.2 million for the Commission's operations and \$3.5 million for the Medical Use of Marijuana Program. A decrease in funding required the Commission to implement a hiring freeze for FY2026. Even with a reduced workforce, the Commission finalized regulations to allow for Social Consumption Establishments and implemented legislative mandates around public health and safety. The Commission allocated funding to improve product testing and continued to invest in equity programming and delivery while continuing to generate surplus revenue for the Commonwealth.

The Commission received \$1 million from the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security in FY2026 to upgrade MMJOS, the medical patient portal, and improve technology for staff. The medical platform manages applications and renewals for over 80,000 medical patients and caregivers and will provide an improved user experience by eliminating manual processes and offering increased security and privacy, while providing improvements to data collection, financial reporting, and controls.

Cumulative Commenced Operational Licensees and Budget Comparison



Looking forward to FY2027, the Legislature appropriated a total of \$21.8 million for the Commission. This includes the reinstatement of \$1 million in funding for Public Education and Awareness. With the implementation of social consumption, public education is critical and a campaign to continue our mandate of public education will roll out in FY2027. Additional appropriation funding was also granted in the amount of \$750,000 for a reference lab. The Commission will be undergoing an analysis of options that will allow for increased independent product testing to protect the public health and safety of users of cannabis products.

Personnel

The Commission's Human Resources Department is responsible for creating and implementing policies, processes, and programs to support the Commission's duty, strategic vision, workforce, and efforts to create a workplace culture that promotes an inclusive, welcoming environment. The Commission has a strong commitment to attracting, rewarding, developing, and retaining an inclusive, diverse, and talented workforce. As of August 2026, out of the 153 positions at the Commission, there were 143 active positions amid a temporary hiring freeze related to FY2026 budget shortfalls. Of the Commission's current employee population, 51 percent are female and 23 percent are persons of color. The agency's management team is 59 percent female and 36 percent persons of color. The agency has 3 percent of employees who chose not to specify their gender, and 19 percent did not specify their ethnicity.

This year, the Commission demonstrated its continued investment in professional development and internal mobility and advancement through two staff promotions across departments. The Commission's ability to recruit, retain, and expand its workforce is directly dependent upon the funding it receives.

Staffing capacity has been further challenged by a temporary hiring freeze that has extended over several months, is currently still in place, and continues to place additional strain on existing employees to meet operational and statutory demands. Without sufficient and consistent appropriations to maintain adequate staffing levels, the Commission's ability to maintain a stable, experienced workforce to support and deliver on its legislative mandates, will not be sustainable.

The Human Resources Department continues to support the Commission's commitment to ensuring an equitable and inclusive work environment for all employees, and it remains a key component of its operations. A range of initiatives and activities including the Commission's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Belonging (DEIJB) initiative, Leadership and Staff DEIJB Committees, HR policy development, management and staff trainings, and an employee focused newsletter are proof of this work. During this past fiscal year, DEIJB initiatives and programs that were held included employee workshops, all-staff trainings, employee resource group monthly meetings, Commission-wide DEIJB conversation hours, and employee engagement and appreciation events. The Human Resources team also rolled out a climate and culture survey in May 2026, as part of the DEIJB initiative, which yielded a strong staff participation rate of 60 percent. The survey feedback will be instrumental in shaping the Commission's future employee engagement plans.



Licensing

The Commission's Licensing team oversees a broad range of regulatory processes critical to the operation and oversight of the Commonwealth's adult- and medical-use cannabis industries. From license application intake to final approval, the team ensures that all licensing activities align with the Commission's regulations and statutory mandates.

A core responsibility of the Licensing team is the review and processing of applications for new and renewal licenses, including those related to changes of ownership, name, location, and operational extensions. These applications include reviewing HCAs, ownership documents, lease or purchase agreements, standard operating procedures plans, capitalization tables, ownership control limits and more to ensure applicants are compliant with state law and regulations.

The Licensing team also manages the registration and renewal of Marijuana Establishment (ME) and Medical Marijuana Establishments (MME) (formerly known as Medical Marijuana Treatment Center), agent identification cards, Responsible Vendor Training (RVT) program certifications and renewals, supporting workforce compliance, public safety and training across both sectors of the industry.

In addition to application and compliance functions, the Licensing team provides direct support to applicants and licensees by responding to a high volume of inquiries received through the Commission's dedicated licensing email inbox. The team also reviews and certifies Community Impact Fee (CIF) requests submitted by municipalities—though no such requests were received during this reporting period.

Certified Economic Empowerment Priority Applicants

Between April 17, 2018, and May 22, 2018, the Commission offered an application process for economic empowerment priority certification in accordance with state law. Applicants were required to meet at least three of six criteria focused on ownership, employment, and demonstrated commitment to advancing economic opportunities for individuals and communities disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition. As of July 2026, the Commission has issued 36 commence operations approvals to Economic Empowerment Applicants (EEAs).

Exclusive Licenses

The Commission's delivery license types, including Delivery Courier, Delivery Operator, and Microbusiness with a Delivery Endorsement, are exclusively available to approved Social Equity Program (SEP) participants and EEAs. The initial 36-month exclusivity period began on April 1, 2022, when the first Marijuana Delivery Operator received a notice to commence operations. As of June 30, 2026, the Commission has approved 255 applications to be pre-certified as either a Delivery Courier or Delivery Operator. In addition, there is one microbusiness with a delivery endorsement. The Commission has extended the delivery exclusivity period until April 1, 2029.

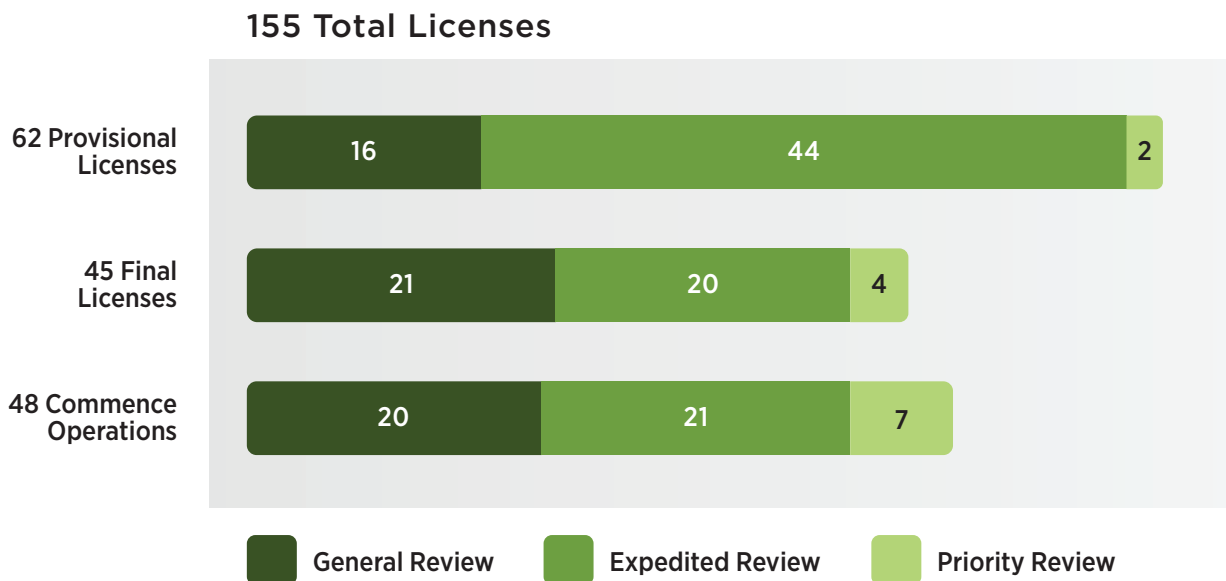
The anticipated Social Consumption Establishment license types will also be exclusive to businesses with majority ownership comprised of approved SEP participants or EEAs, Microbusinesses, and Craft Marijuana Cooperatives for a set period of time. The goal of these exclusivity periods is to promote full participation in the regulated marijuana industry by people from communities who were disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition. The release of the three new social consumption licenses is subject to appropriate resources and funding available to the Commission in order to create RVT guidance, licensee and municipality guidance materials, ability to complete inspections during consumption operation hours, and technical upgrades needed in the licensing system.

Provisional and Final Licensees

As of July 2026, the Commission had received 2,072 license applications for adult-use MEs. The following is a summary breakdown of the 2,072 ME and MME license applications fully submitted to the Commission as of July 2026:

- 272 MME Priority Applicants;
- 148 EEAs;
- 809 Expedited Applicants;
- These applicants consist of minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office as well as Independent Testing Laboratories, Outdoor Cultivators, Marijuana Microbusinesses, and Craft Marijuana Cooperatives. SEP Participant Applicants also receive expedited review
- 474 SEP Applicants (as approved through the Commission's [Social Equity Program](#)); and
- 784 General Applicants that do not meet any of the aforementioned criteria.

Adult-Use Applicants by License Stage FY2026



As of July, 805 licensees have received notices from the Commission that authorize them to commence business operations in the Commonwealth, another 29 entities currently possess final licenses, and 496 have been approved for provisional licenses. Each year, the licensing team has authorized more businesses to commence operations and approved more final licenses than the previous year.

Table 1. Social Equity (SEP), Economic Empowerment (EE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Final Licenses FY2026

	SEP	EE	DBE	Total
Product Manufacturing	3		1	4
Retail	5	4	6	15
Delivery Operator	2			2
Delivery Courier	1			1
Total:	11	4	7	22

Surrenders and Closures

Since 2018, of the 805 adult-use ME licenses the Commission has authorized to commence operations, 114 licenses, or 14 percent, have been either surrendered or not renewed by the licensee. Those 114 do not necessarily represent total business closures. In some cases, licensees may hold multiple licenses, per Chapter 94G Section 16, but may choose to give up one or more while keeping the others active.

Adult-use Marijuana Retailers, which are the most sought-after license type, have seen even fewer closures. Since November 2018, the Commission has authorized 439 retail dispensaries to open to adult-use cannabis consumers in Massachusetts. Thirty-three retail licenses, or 7.5 percent, have either been surrendered or not renewed, leaving 406 active Marijuana Retailers in the Commonwealth.

Of the 112 MMEs the Commission has authorized to commence operations, 17 licenses or 15 percent, have either closed or expired. Of these 17 Licensees, 15 are colocated Marijuana Operators (CMO) and also hold an adult-use retail license.

Changes of Ownership

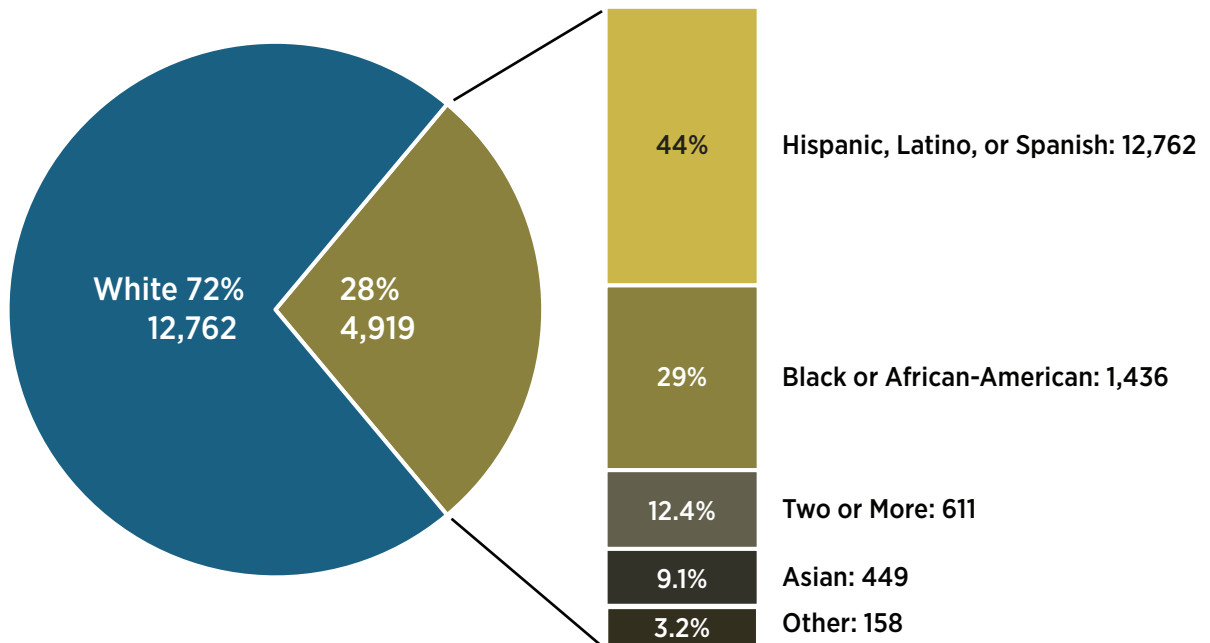
Between July 2025 and July 2026, Enforcement staff has made approximately 55 recommendations for Change of Ownership (COO) applications before the Commission. COO applications reflect those businesses that are adding individuals or entities with control and/or ownership over the license, or applications to add new individuals or entities with ownership interests of 10 percent or more.

Agents

As of July 2025, the Commission received 9,824 new applications for ME agent registrations, creating a total of 20,004 agent cards and 14,162 unique individuals. Of the active agent cards, 36 percent (7,294) of the individuals identified as female, 61 percent (12,270) identified as male, 0.79 percent (160) identified by a different gender and 1.4 percent (280) declined to answer. The Commission has also received 1,841 new applications for MME agent registrations, creating a total of 4,941 active agent cards for 4,361 individual agents. The active agent cards are comprised of 61 percent (3,012) individuals who identify as male, 38 percent (1,896) who identify as female, and 0.66 percent (33) who identify as "Other".

The Commission also promulgated regulations in 2025 amending the agent badging requirements to streamline the process and address industry concerns regarding the need for multiple badges for agents working under co-located establishments. Implementation of these regulations is subject to the Commission's available resources, bandwidth, and funding.

Active Agents Demographics



Responsible Vendor Training (RVT)

In 2023, the Commission unveiled new training curricula for cannabis industry employees. These RVT curricula are designed to cater to both MME and adult-use MEs. The mandatory Basic Core Curriculum, already in place, covers essential topics such as product knowledge, responsible serving procedures, risk mitigation strategies, and public safety. In addition to the Basic Core Curriculum, the Delivery Core Curriculum is required for all agents working under a delivery license type to ensure compliance with regulations and provides training on how to safely conduct deliveries, cash handling policies, strategies for de-escalating potentially dangerous situations, collecting and communicating information to assist in investigations, and more.

Commission regulations 935 CMR 500.105(2)(b) and 935 CMR 501.105(2)(b) outline the RVT requirement for all current ME and MME agents. The Licensing Department manages the RVT Program, including the application process, communication with applicants and current vendors, and any regulatory updates regarding RVT. The Commission currently has 23 active RVT trainers.

Additional courses will also be developed for social consumption establishment agents to ensure they are trained to monitor signs of over intoxication, follow safety protocols, and similar training to the Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS) program that bartenders receive in the Commonwealth. Creating the guidelines and requirements for these RVT courses will be subject to Commission resources and

funding when the regulations are promulgated.

The Commission published [FAQ](#) documents to guide applicants through the RVT certification process as well as an updated [RVT Checklist](#) in the public documents section of the Commission's website.

Medical Use of Marijuana Program

The Commission has administered the Medical Use of Marijuana Program since the program transferred from the Department of Public Health on Dec. 24, 2018. As of June 30, the Medical Use of Marijuana Program had 76,289 Certified Patients, 5,405 Active Caregivers, and 507 Certifying Healthcare Providers (physicians, and nurse practitioners, and physician assistants). The Constituent Services team assists patients and caregivers with registration and renewal applications, troubleshooting technical issues, understanding allotments and where to access medication, and sharing other information regarding the Medical Use of Marijuana Program. The team also provides increased support to some of the Commonwealth's most marginalized constituents to ensure that their specific needs are met, including but not limited to, veterans, court-involved individuals, and senior citizens.

The Commission is committed to improving access to medical marijuana for patients and caregivers. To support this work, the Commission has established the Access to Medical Use Cannabis Working Group to conduct a comprehensive review of the Medical Use of Marijuana Program and propose updates to 935 CMR 501.000, as required by Chapter 65.

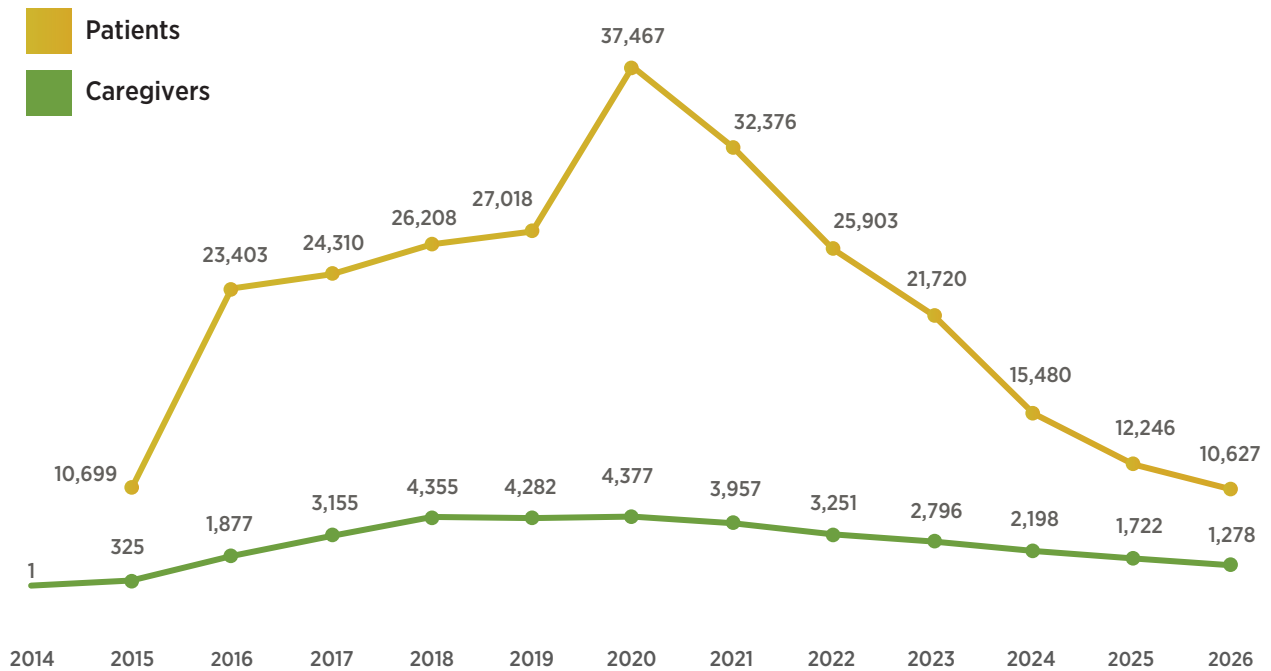
A key focus of the review is the current vertical integration requirement, which mandates that MMEs cultivate, manufacture, and dispense cannabis to patients. The working group is also assessing operational improvements, such as transitioning from physical registration cards to electronic options to reduce costs and streamline the program.

The working group will develop regulatory amendments that enhance the program's long term sustainability while maintaining patient access and meeting statutory obligations. Its work includes evaluating the vertical integration framework, simplifying administrative processes, and identifying efficiencies that support patients, caregivers, healthcare providers, MEMs, and the Commission.

Table 2. Patient and Caregivers Applications

FY2026 Application Numbers	
Patient Registrations	10,749
Patient Renewals	65,540
Caregiver Registrations	1,318
Caregiver Renewals	4,087
Total	81,649

New Registrations of Patients and Caregivers by Fiscal Year



Medical Provisional and Final Licenses

As of July 1, Massachusetts' medical-use cannabis industry is comprised of the following: 91 vertically integrated MME licensees that have commenced full operations to serve patients and caregivers, as well as two provisional licensees.

Investigations and Enforcement

Over the past fiscal year, the agency's Investigations and Enforcement (I&E) department—comprised of the Licensing, Investigations and Compliance, Testing, Enforcement Counsel, Project Management, and Enforcement Training divisions—is tasked with ensuring fair and consistent oversight of the regulated marijuana industry in the Commonwealth. Since 2017, the Commission has continued to develop a fair and comprehensive inspectional and investigatory process that holds licensees accountable to regulatory requirements. The mission of the department is to promote public health, consumer safety, and equity through consistent administration of the Commonwealth's marijuana laws.

Investigations and Compliance

During this fiscal year, Investigations staff completed 602 inspections, including unannounced inspections, license closure inspections, change of location inspections, structural change completion inspections, post-provisional license inspections, post-final license inspections, vehicle and vessel inspections, and approximately 1,538 audits. Investigations staff have also processed approximately 82 architectural review and structural change applications, and approximately eight alternative security provisions.

From these inspections, Investigations staff have issued approximately 1,000 notices of deficiencies to licensees. A notice of deficiency is issued to a Commission licensee when staff identify a violation of law. All licensees get an opportunity to correct deficiencies through plans of correction, which identify the steps that licensees plan to take to address the violation and the timeline for corrective action. Commission staff review plans of correction and may accept or reject them. In some instances, violations identified through the Commission's routine inspectional processes are referred to Enforcement Counsel for consideration of formal administrative action.

Host Community Municipal Equity

In accordance with the Commission's statutory mandate to promote and encourage full participation in the regulated marijuana industry, the Commission continues to review municipal equity policies adopted by Host Communities pursuant to G.L. c. 94G §§ 3(f), 4(a)(xxxi)-(xxxii), 4(a½)(iv), and (xxxvii). These provisions require Host Communities to establish local policies, ordinances, or bylaws designed to promote participation by Social Equity Businesses (SEBs), EEAs and other equity applicants as well as publicizing information as a condition of being a Host Community.

Since launching the Host Community Municipal Equity (HCME) review process through the Massachusetts Cannabis Industry Portal (MassCIP) in May 2024, 59 Host Communities have submitted municipal equity policies and procedures for review. As of June 30, 2026, the Commission determined that 40 municipalities met the minimum municipal equity standards established in statute and regulations. Future submissions will continue to be reviewed in coordination with municipal officials, with Commission staff providing technical assistance and feedback where necessary to facilitate compliance.

The Commission remains committed to working collaboratively with municipalities across the Commonwealth to support implementation of meaningful local equity measures and maintaining compliance with Municipal Equity mandates.

Enforcement Counsel

The Commission prosecutes violations of the Commonwealth's marijuana laws and regulations through its Enforcement Counsel. When violations are identified by other divisions, these matters may be referred to the Enforcement Counsel for further review to determine whether prosecution is warranted and what administrative options are available to the agency. These options include, but are not limited to, assessment of fines, suspension or revocation of applicable licenses, or emergency actions to preserve public health, safety, and welfare.

Once a matter is referred to the Enforcement Counsel, the division undertakes a comprehensive review of the investigative record. This is often a collaborative process with the Investigations and Compliance division to ensure sufficient evidence to support administrative action and may also require the development of additional evidentiary materials. Simultaneously, the Enforcement Counsel will identify any potential legal questions presented by the particular facts in any given matter prior to taking an action. Depending on the complexity of these matters, these actions can take hundreds of staff hours

to resolve through collaborative efforts of divisions across the agency to issue initial notices and orders, engaging in the formal hearing process and negotiations, preparing for public meeting presentation, and post-action compliance monitoring.

Between July 2025 and June 2026, the Commission has issued eight Orders to Show Cause for regulatory violations. The focus of these orders included, in part, abandonment of a license, unlicensed cultivation operations, expired product sales, improper storage of marijuana and marijuana products, potential diversion, and negligent or irresponsible operations. An Order to Show Cause initiates formal administrative action against a licensee and affords the licensee the right to a hearing pursuant to G.L. c. 30A and overseen by the Commission's independent hearing officer. During the past year, the hearing officer has presented two recommended decisions to the Commission for ratification.

In each instance where the Commission issues an Order to Show Cause, the subject of that order is also offered the opportunity to resolve the matter through Informal Dispute Resolution (IDR) while engaging in the Commission's hearing process. Through IDR, the parties may negotiate an informal disposition that is presented to the Commission for ratification. Via this process, the parties agree to an informal disposition—referred to as a stipulated agreement—that resolves the identified violations, incorporates affirmative relief to ensure future compliance, and oftentimes includes a fine or suspension of the license or individuals directly involved in the underlying violations. During the past year, the agency, through its Enforcement Counsel, has engaged eight licensees in IDR. In FY26, three stipulated agreements have been ratified by the Commission, representing \$435,000 in monetary penalties.

In addition to prosecuting administrative actions on behalf of the agency, the Enforcement Counsel is also responsible for conducting enhanced suitability reviews of Persons Having Direct or Indirect Control and agents as well as processing requests to waive Commission regulations. In the past fiscal year, there have been three referrals for enhanced suitability review and 28 waiver requests.

Testing

During FY2026, the Commission's Testing team continued its oversight of 10 Independent Testing Laboratories (ITLs) and two laboratory facilities in Dukes County. The Testing team plays a critical role in protecting public health by ensuring that ITLs meet regulatory safety standards before and while testing cannabis products.



The Testing team provides analytical and technical expertise to support the Commission. Their responsibilities include conducting announced and unannounced inspections of ITLs, addressing external test related inquiries, conducting routine laboratory and result reporting audits, reviewing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), ongoing re-evaluation of the Testing Protocol and Guidance to inform recommendations, and resolving discrepancies within Metrc, the Commonwealth's seed-to-sale system of record. These inspections help ensure laboratory compliance with 935 CMR 500.160 and 501.160, including requirements for cannabinoid content, microbiological contaminants, heavy metals, residual solvents, and pesticide screening.

During FY2026, the Testing team conducted 22 ITL inspections, assisted Commission staff on five inspections and issued 18 notices of deficiencies. The Testing team continues to conduct an assessment of the Commission's testing regulations and protocol for potential updates and revisions to evaluate and strengthen standardized testing and reporting practices.

I&E Task Force

In December 2024, the Commission, established a temporary task force comprised of members from the Testing, Investigations, Enforcement Counsel, and Project Management teams to support investigative efforts relative to ITL compliance. The task force is charged with reviewing and addressing complaints related to testing and safety of marijuana and marijuana products marketed to patients and consumers, among other tasks.

In FY26, I&E staff began performing shelf-audits of retail marijuana flower products. This audit program will establish procedures and organizational capacity through phased iterations, eventually culminating in a comprehensive labeling accuracy and product contaminant screening compliance program. Since initiating the audit program, staff have completed a potency shelf audit involving 67 products, with a focus on label accuracy and representative test sample creation at Marijuana Establishments. These efforts will progress in the phases of this program, including direct enforcement actions against licensees involved in non-compliant labeling and test sample creation and expansion of audits to capture contaminant screening. Accountable and transparent test sample creation will ensure that test sample collection and contaminant screenings are improved for the protection of public health and safety.

The ability to continue the efforts of this task force is directly tied to the Commission's available funding. The task force requires substantial cross departmental staffing, overtime commitments, and resource reallocation from other critical functions. Members of the task force perform this work in addition to their regular responsibilities, further straining available bandwidth and resources across the agency. The investigative and retesting work involved in responding to constituent complaints is resource-intensive, requiring specialized expertise from multiple Commission teams as well as coordination with licensed testing laboratories. Without sufficient appropriations, the Commission may be unable to maintain this heightened level of investigative activity, slowing response times to complaints, reducing the scope of product safety testing, and limiting the agency's ability to take swift enforcement actions. Additional funding would allow the Commission to continue proactive investigations, strengthen product safety oversight, and ensure consistent enforcement that protects both patients and consumers.

Equity Programming and Community Outreach

The Commission continues to advance its commitment to equity and community engagement by strengthening the nation's first statewide Social Equity Program (SEP) and expanding outreach through the Equity Programming and Community Outreach (EPCO) department. These efforts reflect the Commission's statutory mandate to promote equitable participation in the regulated cannabis industry and to ensure communities disproportionately impacted by marijuana prohibition are provided meaningful opportunities for economic advancement. Through expanded staffing, strategic planning, curriculum redevelopment, targeted outreach, and new platforms such as the EquityWorks Career Hub, the Commission works to reduce barriers to entry, foster professional growth, and build sustainable pathways into the legal cannabis marketplace. Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate the Commission's dedication to building an inclusive, accessible, and forward-looking industry that prioritizes reparative practices and community impact including those from Areas of Disproportionate Impact (ADIs), the medical community, municipalities and government officials, academia, and other priority constituents.



Social Equity Program

The SEP is designed to build pathways into the legal cannabis industry for individuals disproportionately impacted by previous marijuana prohibition. The SEP focuses on those most impacted by the War on Drugs, marijuana prohibition, disproportionate arrest, and incarceration, and provides training, technical assistance, and mentorship for entry into the regulated marketplace across four areas: entrepreneurship, entry- and managerial-level workforce and professional development, and ancillary business support. Its overall mission is to decrease the disparities in life outcomes for impacted individuals and improve the quality of life for those from ADIs. Commission staff have initiated a three-year strategic planning process to ensure the SEP continues to effectively meet its intended goals.

During FY2026, the EPCO department launched a comprehensive strategic review of the SEP's benefits and services to assess program effectiveness, participant experiences, and opportunities for future

enhancement. This cross-divisional initiative brought together staff from Licensing, Investigations and Enforcement, Legal, Research, Communications, Human Resources, Finance, and other Commission departments to collaboratively evaluate existing benefits and identify areas for improvement. The review represents one of the Commission's most comprehensive internal assessments of equity programming to date and serves as the foundation for future stakeholder engagement activities and the development of public-facing recommendations aimed at strengthening equitable access and long-term participant success.

Building upon the internal strategic review of SEP benefits, EPCO initiated planning efforts for a robust external stakeholder engagement process that will include surveys, working groups, and collaborative discussions with program participants, municipalities, licensees, community organizations, workforce partners, and industry stakeholders. The information gathered through these efforts will help inform future policy recommendations, identify barriers and opportunities for improvement, and support the continued evolution of equity-focused programming and services across the Commonwealth.

Approved SEP participants and EEAs are eligible for expedited application review within the Commission's licensing queue, receive certain fee waivers, and have exclusive access to Commission pre-certification, and delivery and social consumption license types. The agency previously expanded SEP criteria and increased participation in the program to any individual listed as an owner on the original certification of an EEA who satisfies certain criteria.

The goals of the SEP are to:

- Reduce barriers to entry in the regulated marijuana industry, regardless of desired specialty within the industry;
- Provide professional and technical services as well as mentoring for individuals and businesses facing systemic barriers; and
- Promote sustainable, socially and economically reparative practices in the regulated marijuana industry in Massachusetts.

To qualify for the program, an applicant must meet one of the following criteria:

- Residency in an ADI for at least five of the past 10 years and income not exceeding 400% of the Area Median Income in the applicant's respective town/city;
- A past drug conviction, continuance without a finding, or an equivalent conviction in other jurisdictions, and residency in Massachusetts for at least the preceding 12 months;
- Married to, or the child of, a person with a drug conviction, a continuance without a finding, or an equivalent conviction in other jurisdictions, and residency in Massachusetts for at least the preceding 12 months;
- Any individual listed as an owner on the original certification of an EEA who satisfies one or more the following criteria:
- Lived for five of the preceding 10 years in an ADI, as determined by the Commission;
 - Experience in one or more previous positions where the primary population served were disproportionately impacted, or where primary responsibilities included economic education, resource provision or empowerment to disproportionately impacted individuals

or communities;

- Black, African American, Hispanic, or Latino descent; or
- Other significant articulable demonstration of past experience in or business practices that promote economic empowerment in ADIs.

Since its inception, the Commission has accepted 1,101 participants into the free technical assistance and training program. Cohort III has been the largest class to date with 446 participants. To date, approximately 72% of all program participants self-identify as Black, African American, Hispanic, or Latino descent.

Courses

Throughout FY2026, EPCO successfully completed another full cycle of live technical assistance and training programming for SEP participants. The program provided participants with comprehensive educational opportunities focused on entrepreneurship, licensing, compliance, leadership development, workforce readiness, business operations, municipal engagement, financial literacy, and long-term business sustainability.

In addition to live instruction, participants continued to receive ongoing access to recorded sessions, educational materials, and supplemental resources through the Commission's learning management platform, ensuring continued engagement and long-term accessibility of program content.

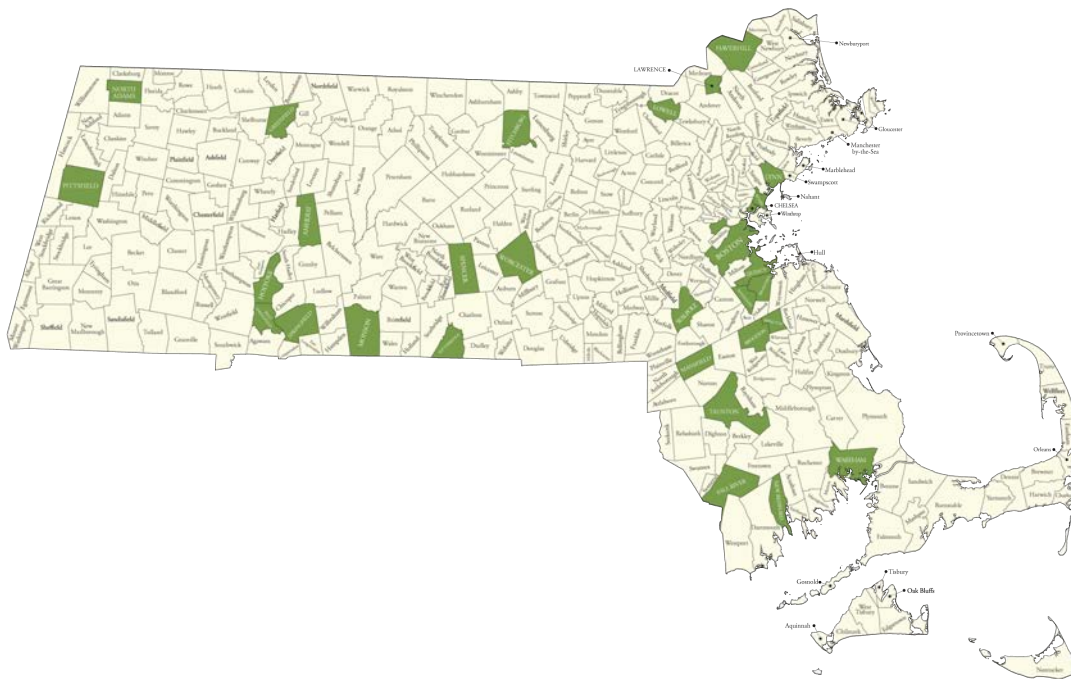
For the most recent SEP application period open Aug. 1 through Sept. 30, 2026, EPCO increased outreach efforts statewide, including informational campaigns, SEP application support webinars, and accessible guidance on eligibility criteria, application processes, and available participant resources. EPCO's continued outreach ensures equitable access, robust participation, and sustained benefit for communities disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition.

As the Commission continues to refine and expand its programming, ongoing feedback from participants highlighted the need for a more advanced and industry-responsive curriculum. In response, the Commission has collaborated closely with contracted technical assistance and training vendors to strategically redevelop and deliver 72 updated courses, ensuring the curriculum continuously evolves to align with the growing needs of the cannabis industry. This redevelopment is part of the Commission's ongoing commitment to equipping SEP participants with comprehensive and relevant resources to successfully enter and thrive within Massachusetts' cannabis industry.

The development of social consumption courses for SEP participants will require significant investment in time, expertise, and funding. These courses must be designed from the ground up, including the curriculum, creation of instructional materials, and recruitment of qualified instructors with relevant subject matter expertise. Once created, the courses will be delivered in formats accessible to diverse participants, potentially requiring both in person and virtual offerings. The successful launch and ongoing availability of these courses are dependent on the Commission securing sufficient funding to support their design, implementation, and continuous improvement, ensuring that participants are fully prepared to enter and succeed in the emerging social consumption market.

Areas of Disproportionate Impact (ADIs)

Consistent with the statutory and regulatory mandate, please find below the Commission's map of ADIs, defined as a geographic area identified by the Commission for the purposes identified in M.G.L. c. 94G, § 4(a½)(iv), and which has had historically high rates of arrest, conviction, and incarceration related to marijuana crimes (see 935 CMR 500.002 and 501.002).



30 Areas of Disproportionate Impact

Abington	Amherst	Boston	Braintree
Brockton	Chelsea	Fall River	Fitchburg
Greenfield	Haverhill	Holyoke	Lawrence
Lowell	Lynn	Mansfield	Monson
New Bedford	North Adams	Pittsfield	Quincy
Randolph	Revere	Southbridge	Spencer
Springfield	Taunton	Walpole	Wareham
West Springfield	Worcester		

Engagement and Events

The Commission remains deeply committed to fostering robust and ongoing community engagement. Year over year, the Commission continues to expand outreach, actively promoting the Commission's equity programming, advancing critical initiatives, and strengthening community partnerships statewide as budgetary constraints allow.

The Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund (CSETF) administered by the Executive Office of Economic Development, represents an important component of the Commonwealth's broader commitment

to addressing historical inequities within the cannabis industry by supporting access to capital and reducing barriers to participation for individuals and communities disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition. During FY2026, EPCO continued to support ongoing efforts related to the CSETF by engaging with interagency partners and stakeholders to increase awareness of financial resources and opportunities available to eligible equity participants. Further, at the close of each CSETF funding round, the Commission assists EOED by verifying the equity status of each applicant to ensure they meet the qualifying criteria set by the CSETF. The Commission remains committed to supporting participant education, stakeholder engagement, and collaborative planning activities intended to maximize awareness, accessibility, and long-term utilization of Trust Fund resources. These efforts are intended to complement existing SEP benefits and further strengthen pathways toward economic empowerment, business sustainability, and equitable participation within Massachusetts' regulated cannabis marketplace.

Overall, EPCO's outreach in FY2026 underscored the critical role that community engagement plays in advancing equity and expanding opportunities within the cannabis industry. The department's achievements this year, from targeted outreach to thought leadership, reflect the Commission's dedication to ensuring equitable participation statewide. EPCO participated in a panel discussion on February 11 at Johns Hopkins University that focused on equity in the cannabis industry, highlighted Massachusetts' leadership in equity and shared best practices nationwide. Maintaining this momentum, particularly through external events, specialized trainings, and new equity initiatives, will require additional funding to meet demand and fully realize the Commission's mission for an inclusive, accessible, and well-supported marketplace.

Throughout FY2026, EPCO continued to strengthen relationships with municipalities, community-based organizations, workforce development partners, educational institutions, and other key stakeholders to advance equity-focused initiatives across the Commonwealth.

Recognizing that achieving meaningful equity outcomes requires collaboration beyond regulatory frameworks, EPCO engaged in numerous outreach efforts designed to increase awareness of Commission programs, provide educational resources, facilitate dialogue on emerging cannabis policy issues, and encourage local participation in equity initiatives.

Particular emphasis was placed on fostering partnerships with communities disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and supporting municipalities as they prepare for emerging opportunities, including social consumption and future equity-focused business participation. These engagement efforts help ensure that local perspectives are incorporated into policy discussions and contribute to the development of more inclusive and equitable pathways into the regulated cannabis industry.

To further strengthen engagement and communication efforts, EPCO launched the *CannaConnections* newsletter to provide participants, stakeholders, municipalities, and industry partners with timely updates regarding Commission initiatives, regulatory developments, educational resources, workforce opportunities, and equity-related programming.

The newsletter serves as an additional mechanism to increase transparency, improve information sharing, and foster meaningful engagement with communities and individuals interested in advancing equity within the regulated cannabis industry.

EquityWorks Career Hub

The EPCO team continues intensive work toward the successful development of the EquityWorks Career Hub platform, powered by Premier Virtual. EquityWorks is specifically designed to support professional growth in the regulated cannabis industry, including inclusive hiring practices and robust networking. The platform prioritizes communities disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition, fostering inclusive economic participation through tailored resources and networking opportunities. EquityWorks Career Hub was launched to licensees on April 14, 2026 equity programming participants on May 12, and to the general public on June 19.

EPCO hosted a series of in-person training sessions on the EquityWorks platform on May 21, June 11, and June 25. These targeted outreach events focused on increasing awareness, driving platform registrations among SEP participants and job seekers, and strengthening engagement with licensed cannabis businesses and integrated business solution services. For a limited time prior to the public launch of the platform, the Commission targeted equity participants exclusively, which is vital for building community trust, encouraging early adoption, and guaranteeing access to digital resources among equity participants and the public.

To spread awareness of this initiative, the Commission developed an integrated, multi-platform marketing campaign consisting of a new webpage added to the Equity Programming section of the Commission's website, an educational rack card, a video tour, an email drip campaign, social media posts, and multimedia support to promote EquityWorks Career Hub, as well as various training sessions across the state for licensees, ancillary business owners, and job seekers of all levels.

In May 2026, the Commission hosted its inaugural EquityWorks Virtual Cannabis Career Fair, representing a significant milestone in advancing workforce development opportunities within Massachusetts' regulated cannabis industry. The event brought together employers, job seekers, workforce development organizations, educational partners, and community stakeholders to facilitate networking, career exploration, and employment opportunities.

This initiative further expanded EquityWorks Career Hub as a workforce development resource by increasing awareness of industry career pathways, supporting equitable hiring practices, and fostering meaningful connections between employers and individuals seeking entry into the regulated cannabis industry.

Looking ahead, EPCO remains committed to strategically planning and organizing dynamic, robust community outreach events. These ongoing efforts are essential to supporting current and prospective equity participants, providing necessary resources, and continuously strengthening pathways into the legal cannabis industry, as business owners, skilled professionals, and integrated business solution providers.

Communications

The Commission is in constant contact with members of the public through various media and platforms. Beyond the agency's monthly public meeting, which consistently features Commissioners' availability

to the media after adjournment, Commissioners attend and present at public events throughout the Commonwealth, the Northeast, and nationwide. Commission principals have made or participated in numerous press opportunities, presentations, speeches, panel discussions, roundtables, and other forums before stakeholder groups such as community organizations, senior citizen groups, municipal officials, financial institutions, industry, peer regulators, and law enforcement. The agency takes seriously its responsibility to address questions raised by members of the press in an efficient and transparent manner, and to proactively promote agency updates that will impact constituent groups through media announcements and opinion pieces, web updates, email communications, social media, and more.

Several examples from the past fiscal year and more recently include communications around regulatory reforms creating social consumption license types and extending delivery exclusivity; recognizing a record for gross sales in 2025 and gross sales surpassing \$10 billion in 2026; promoting the first EquityWorks Career Hub virtual career fair; and publicizing health and safety information around the 4/20 cannabis holiday, and for visitors attending local World Cup matches.



Website

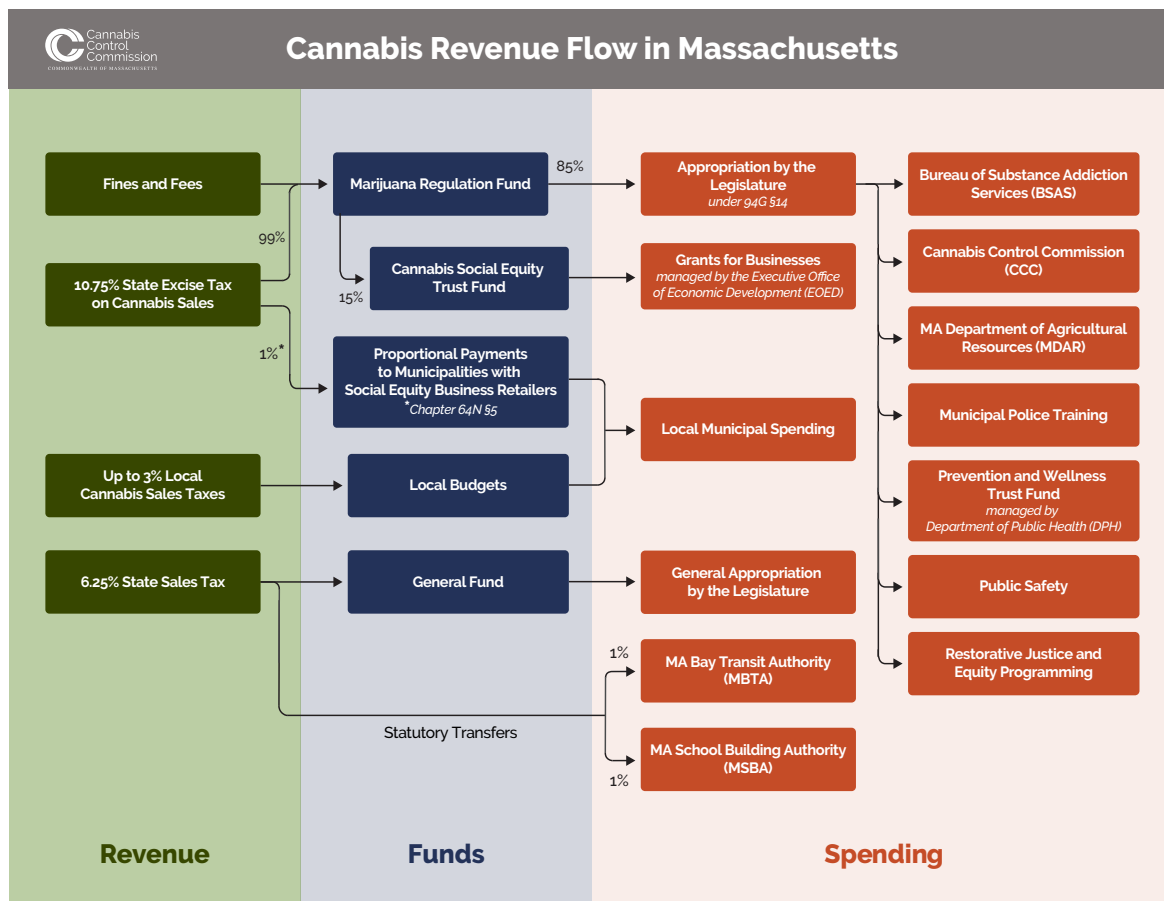
From July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, the Commission's website received more than 2,100,000 page views and over 520,000 unique visits. The website continues to provide a high level of transparency and self-service for the public by regularly maintaining various tables and tools such as a newly-reconfigured Municipal Zoning Tracker updated to reflect current delivery and social consumption statuses and a relaunched [Where to Buy](#) interactive map that includes both retail and delivery businesses across the state. The Commission also maintains a robust archive of public documents, including enforcement actions, agency announcements, press releases, and both provisional and final Executive Summaries and License Applications, all easily accessible to the public. In FY2026, the Commission introduced several new website enhancements and user-focused resources designed to improve transparency and accessibility for the public, including a [Public Health and Safety Advisories portal](#) and a [Cannabis Revenue Flow in Massachusetts](#) interactive landing page.

Public Health and Safety Advisories Portal

On August 6, 2025, the Commission launched a Public Health and Safety Advisories website portal to notify constituents of contaminated and potentially contaminated Marijuana flower and Marijuana Products that may pose concerns for public health, safety, or welfare. The portal features an interactive table of products with identifying information such as product names and categories as well the ability to search, sort, and extract the data. The portal also features the Commission's Understanding Labels [video](#) and [flyer](#) to educate consumers and patients on how to locate a batch number and testing date on a Massachusetts Marijuana product label for ease of reference.

Cannabis Revenue Flow in Massachusetts

Although the Commission receives a portion of state tax revenue to support agency operations and administration of the Medical Use of Marijuana Program, the agency's funding is determined annually through the state budget process. The State Legislature and the Governor utilize marijuana tax revenues as a key funding source across many other state government departments, programs, and public services each year. To provide additional context of the flow of cannabis tax revenue in Massachusetts, the Commission developed a [website landing page](#) and interactive flowchart that displays a clear visualization of the revenue flow and expounds on the many state agencies, funds, and services that benefit from the tax revenue generated from the adult-use cannabis industry.



Virtual Engagement

The Commission sent, on average, 13 email campaigns to subscribers per month with an open rate of 22%. The Commission's social media presence includes [Instagram](#) (@CannabisControlCommission, 4,451 followers), [LinkedIn](#) (@CannabisControlCommission, 12,482 followers) [Twitter, now called X](#), (@MA_Cannabis, 8,655 followers) and [Facebook](#) (@MassCCC, 3,200 followers). The Commission also hosts a [YouTube](#) channel that provides access to past public meetings, educational content, and tutorials. Through these various channels, the Commission continues to communicate with the public regarding the work of the agency and its regulation of the developing industry.

Public Awareness and Education Campaigns

From Idea to Regulation: An Overview of the Massachusetts Cannabis Regulatory Process

In Q1 of FY2026, the Commission produced an [explainer video](#) that breaks down the state's regulatory process from the formation of a policy concept to its promulgation by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and everything in between. The video educates constituents on the steps that all cannabis policy proposals must take before they officially become new or reformed regulations guiding the Commonwealth's Adult Use and Medical Use of Marijuana markets.

Combined efforts from across the Commission expanded this video to an updated webpage on the Commission's website that not only walks constituents through the regulatory process, but also tips on submitting a public comment, providing public hearing testimony, and instructions for submitting a petition to change regulations.



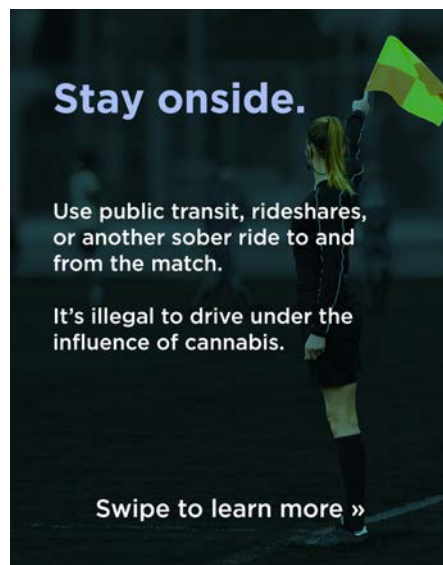
Know Your Terpenes

The Commission created and launched a new social media series in Q2 of FY2026 entitled "[Know Your Terpenes](#)" to educate both new and seasoned consumers on terpenes, the naturally occurring organic chemical compounds produced by plants that shape the aroma and flavor as well as potential therapeutic effects such as anti-inflammatory, anti-anxiety, pain relief, among others. The series featured some of the common terpenes found in cannabis including myrcene, limonene, caryophyllene, pinene, linalool, and humulene



Know the Laws: Match Day Pointers for Fans Who Consume

In Q4 of FY2026, the Commission also took the opportunity to target audiences visiting Massachusetts for the FIFA World Cup by launching a social series entitled “Know the Laws: Match Day Pointers for Fans Who Consume”. The campaign's messaging advised consumers to check the rules of their accommodations, use public transportation or rideshares, keep products locked up and out of reach of children, and not to consume in public spaces.



More About Marijuana

The Commission utilized owned and earned channels in FY2026 to highlight new educational content for its state-mandated public awareness campaign, [More About Marijuana](#). The latest resources include [a video series entitled "Make a Plan"](#) to encourage safe and responsible out-of-home consumption behaviors. The videos and website content advise adult consumers to “make a plan” regarding transportation options, dosages, not mixing substances, and not driving impaired. The Commission used its annual 4/20 campaign—a cannabis enthusiast holiday and the industry's highest sales day of the year—as an opportunity to promote the campaign's new content to better educate the public as progress towards social consumption licenses and establishments continues.



Medical Use of Marijuana Program

To further build upon the Commission's recognition of the 10-year anniversary of the Medical Use of Marijuana Program in 2025, the Commission developed two new tri-fold brochures and a [video](#) providing an overview of the Medical Use of Marijuana Program in Massachusetts.

The “Guide for Patients” brochure lists qualifying medical conditions and provides step-by-step information on certification, registration, and renewal. The benefits of the program are clearly explained in accessible language, as well as information on where to buy medical marijuana, types of products available, and the option for home cultivation. QR codes are displayed next to relevant information for easy access, linking directly to the Patients and Caregivers section of the website, MMJOS, the Where to Buy interactive map, and the Home Cultivation page.

The “Guide for Caregivers” provides detailed information on how to qualify to become a Caregiver for Registered Qualifying Patients, including the registration and renewal process for Caregivers, and the responsibilities and restrictions of the Caregiver’s role. It also includes information on where and how to buy medical marijuana for a Registered Patient in your care as well as cultivation for patients as a Caregiver. QR codes are also displayed, linking to the same online resources as were found on the Patient brochure.

The brochures are available to licensees, Certifying Healthcare Providers, community organizations, and the general public to order free of charge via the Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse along with a large suite of public education materials in both print and digital download formats, while the video is available on the Commission’s website and YouTube channel.

Where to Buy

Retail
You can purchase medical marijuana from licensed MMEs in Massachusetts.

Delivery
An MME, or a Marijuana Courier acting on behalf of an MME, may deliver medical marijuana to your or your Caregiver’s residence regardless of whether your municipality allows adult-use cannabis delivery.

Use the Commission’s “Where to Buy” tool to find an MME or delivery business near you in Massachusetts!
MassCannabisControl.com/where-to-buy



Marijuana Products

Medical marijuana is available in a variety of forms and products, including:

Flower	Topicals
Concentrates	Ingestible Oils
Edibles	Tinctures

Home Cultivation

You may grow up to 12 flowering and 12 vegetative cannabis plants in your home for personal, adult use and are permitted to grow enough medical marijuana to yield a 60-day supply. A 60-day supply is defined as enough to provide 10 ounces of usable medical marijuana.

Learn more about home cultivation at MassCannabisControl.com/home-cultivation







Medical Use of Marijuana Program

Guide for Patients





Medical Use of Marijuana Program

(833) 869-6820
Commission@CCMass.com
MassCannabisControl.com

 [MA_Cannabis](https://twitter.com/MA_Cannabis)
 [cannabiscontrolcommission](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cannabiscontrolcommission)
 [MassCCC](https://www.facebook.com/MassCCC)
 [CannabisControlCommission](https://www.instagram.com/CannabisControlCommission)

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Constituent Services

The Constituent Services Department serves as the forward-facing voice of the Commission, supporting residents across the Commonwealth and participants in the Medical Use of Marijuana Program. The department responds to public inquiries and provides information about the Commission's rules, regulations, and the work of each unit within the agency. It also assists Registered Qualifying Patients, Personal Caregivers, and Certifying Healthcare Providers with program navigation within the Medical Use of Marijuana Program.

The Commission is committed to providing timely responses to all public inquiries. Constituents can contact the agency through the MassCannabisControl.com "Contact" page, by email, phone, or written correspondence. In FY2026, the Commission received and responded to more than 30,000 phone calls and approximately 9,000 emails submitted to its general inbox. Constituent Services collaborates with other departments to resolve inquiries related to licensing, applications, compliance, and other matters concerning operating cannabis businesses.

Table 3: Commission Mailbox Numbers FY2026

Categories	Totals
MMJ	7,039
Investigations	586
Licensing	534
Public Comments	209
Press/Govt Affairs	192
Misc.	173
Public Comments	128
Social Consumption	120
SEP	93
Legal	72
Records Request	72
Helpdesk	40
Human Resources	38
Research	31
Testing/ITL	26
Data	8
Total	9,363

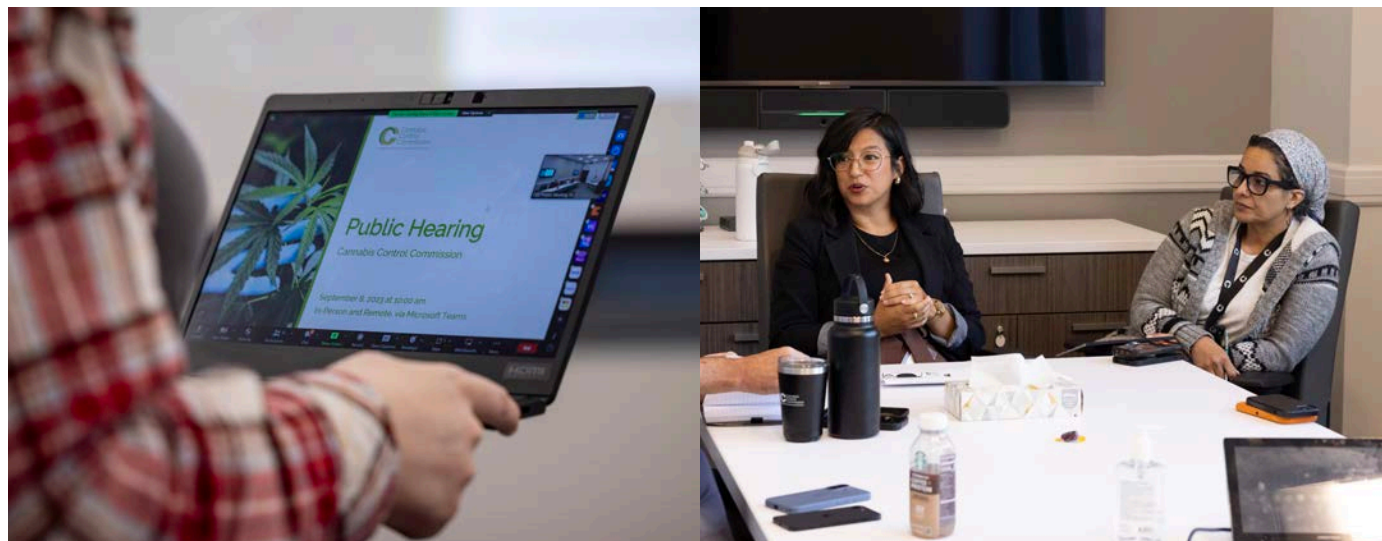
Table 4: Constituent Services and Operator Phone Lines FY2026

FY2026	Calls Offered	Calls Handled	Average Handle Time	Average Time in Queue
Operator Inbound	4,690	5,201	05:17 min	02:23 min
Operator Outbound	541	541	00:16 sec	N/A
Patient Services Inbound	21,700	25,149	13:54 min	03:07 min
Patient Services Outbound	3,676	3,676	14:39 min	N/A

Government Affairs and Policy

Throughout FY2026, the Commission continued to serve as a trusted resource for policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels, maintaining robust collaboration with the Legislature and Executive Branch to advance the Commonwealth's cannabis policy goals. Per the Commission's legislative outreach policy, the Commission does not weigh in on specific bills but rather, may advocate for general policies to support an industry that protects public safety, health, and welfare, and promotes an equitable and fair marketplace. The Commission may also, by majority vote, approve policy statements to aid the Legislature on topics that fall under the agency's purview.

During the 194th legislative session, Commissioners and staff were actively engaged with members of the Legislature and the Joint Committee on Cannabis Policy to answer questions, provide data, and share background information on current regulatory practices. In addition to supporting consideration of pending legislation from FY2025, the Commission worked closely with legislative staff through the development and enactment of Chapter 65 of the Acts of 2026, providing technical assistance, responding to practical implementation questions, hosting legislative officials at the Commission's headquarters, and providing data from other cannabis industries across the country. Commission staff assisted legislators by addressing implementation timelines and the operational impacts of the bill on licensees, municipalities, and the regulated market.



Outside of Chapter 65, the Commission also responded to legislative inquiries concerning hemp-derived cannabinoids, emerging cannabis policy issues, and other proposed legislation. These ongoing discussions ensured that legislators had access to timely, accurate, and objective information as they considered legislation affecting the Commission's work and the cannabis industry.

Most often, legislative offices are in contact with the Commission on behalf of their constituents, answering a variety of questions. The Commission is proactive in alerting legislators when a new ME or MME will commence operations in their district.

The Commission continues to regularly engage with municipal officials, local boards of health, and police departments to provide data, expertise, and updates on regulatory developments including social consumption. The Commission also participated at the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Annual Meeting and Trade Show in January. There, staff met directly with municipal leaders from across the Commonwealth, providing guidance and resources on key topics such as the new social consumption license type, and continued conversations around municipal equity requirements. These conversations helped local officials as they look to opt-in to allow social consumption and continue to comply with Chapter 180 mandates.

After the enactment of Chapter 65, which amended the law to allow the delivery of adult use cannabis to all 351 municipalities while granting cities and towns an option to prohibit delivery, the Commission developed a Delivery Waiver Request process, and the agency released multiple informational press releases and emails to help inform municipalities of their eligibility as well as provide information to the public on which towns have active waivers banning adult use cannabis delivery in place.

The Commonwealth continues to be recognized as a national leader in marijuana policy, especially with the implementation of social consumption and transportation of marijuana products over state waters. The Commission regularly receives requests from state and federal agencies, policymakers, researchers, and regulatory organizations seeking information on Massachusetts' regulatory framework, implementation strategies, and lessons learned from administering one of the nation's most robust cannabis markets. Through the publication of guidance, research, policy resources, and collaboration with regulatory partners across the country, the Commission continues to contribute to the development of cannabis policy.

The Commission's Government Affairs and Policy (GAP) team maintains strong relationships with regulatory counterparts throughout the United States, meeting regularly through the Cannabis Regulators Association (CANNRA) to discuss emerging issues affecting regulated cannabis markets. During FY2026, these discussions included hemp-derived cannabinoids, public health, interstate coordination, compliance and enforcement, banking and financial services, public education, social equity, medical cannabis, and evolving federal policy. These engagements enable the Commission to both share Massachusetts' regulatory experience and learn from the approaches of peer agencies, allowing staff to identify emerging trends, benchmark against national best practices, and incorporate lessons learned into policy development, regulatory modernization, and operational improvements. This ongoing collaboration helps ensure that the Commonwealth remains at the forefront of safe, equitable, and effective cannabis regulation.

During FY2026, the Commission continued to monitor the United States Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) proposed rule to reschedule marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III under the federal Controlled Substances Act. Building upon the Commission's FY2025 [public comment](#) submitted to the United States Department of Justice, the Commission monitored the resumption of DEA administrative proceedings and continues to evaluate potential regulatory implications for Massachusetts. The Commission's public comment emphasized the Commonwealth's experience implementing a comprehensive regulatory framework that protects public health and safety while advancing equitable participation in the regulated cannabis industry. The Commission also recognized the significance of the federal government's acknowledgment that cannabis has accepted medical uses and will continue to monitor federal developments and assess their potential impact on the Commonwealth's cannabis laws and regulations.

Special Policy Reports

In support of the Commission's commitment to evidence-based policymaking, the GAP team prepares comprehensive Special Policy Reports (SPRs) to examine emerging issues affecting cannabis regulation in Massachusetts and across the nation. These reports provide Commissioners and staff with objective legal, regulatory, and policy analysis by evaluating approaches taken in other jurisdictions, identifying best practices, and assessing potential impacts on the Commonwealth's regulatory framework.

During FY2026, the GAP team completed several SPRs and research memoranda examining key regulatory and operational issues. Topics included cannabis licensing fee adjustments across U.S. jurisdictions; state cannabis secret shopper programs and compliance testing models; reforms to agent registration and credentialing systems; public health advisories and cannabis product recall practices; and comparative analyses of state licensing fee structures.

These reports serve as a critical resource for Commission deliberations, legislative engagement, and regulatory development. By conducting in-depth research and benchmarking Massachusetts against other state cannabis programs, the GAP team helps ensure that Commission policy decisions are informed by current data, legal developments, and proven regulatory practices. The reports also support intergovernmental collaboration by providing policymakers, partner agencies, and stakeholders with objective analyses of complex cannabis policy issues.

Legal

The Legal department advises the Commission and its staff on the interpretation and implementation of its governing laws and on applicable areas of state and federal law. In addition, Legal coordinates, as needed, on responding to external inquiries from members of the public and from federal and state agencies and officials, including agency counsel. Staff also supports professional groups and academic institutions focused on the developing area of cannabis law. In addition to the General Counsel, the Legal department consists of a Deputy General Counsel, several Associate General Counsels, Paralegals and a Legal Assistant.

Litigation

The Legal department works closely with the Office of the Attorney General on litigation and other matters implicating the interpretation and implementation of the Commission's laws and regulations as well as pertinent areas of the law. To that end, the Commission's General Counsel has obtained designation as a Special Assistant Attorney General (SAAG) to represent the Commission in certain court matters. Pursuant to the SAAG designation, the General Counsel has filed pleadings in several pending Superior Court matters. As of the date of this report, the Commission is not a named defendant in any pending litigation matters in court. Legal staff also monitor and alert Commissioners and staff to important decisions made by federal and state courts on relevant aspects of the law.

Open Meeting Law Compliance

The Commission conducts its public meetings in compliance with the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25, which includes posting notice and materials at least 48 hours in advance of its meetings. The Commission's public meetings are held in virtual and/or hybrid formats and, over the past few years, have been consistent with the Governor's executive orders related to the Open Meeting Law and the Legislature's enactment of Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025. In FY2026, the Commission held a total of 38 Public Meetings, Public Listening Sessions and Public Hearings. In addition to live streaming its public meetings, the Commission posts recordings of its public meetings on its YouTube channel and its minutes on its website. On a tri-annual basis, the Commission reviews its executive session minutes for release to the public. Relatedly, Legal staff also advises on compliance with Robert's Rules of Order, previously adopted by the Commission, and on questions relating to the conduct of its public meetings.



Ethics Compliance

As required by G. L. c. 6, § 223 (j), the Commission has developed its own Enhanced Code of Ethics. The Legal department supports Commissioners and staff in ensuring compliance with state ethics laws and its Enhanced Code of Ethics. As part of its onboarding process, Legal staff ensures that new employees

satisfy applicable ethics requirements. The Legal department consults with the State Ethics Commission as needed and appropriate.

Regulations

The Legal department works directly with Commissioners to draft and promulgate regulations in accordance with G. L. c. 30A, §§ 1-17. Upon receiving policy guidance from the Commissioners, Legal staff draft regulatory language for review and discussion at public meetings. As required by statute, all regulatory amendments are submitted for public comment and members of the public are invited to provide feedback orally at public hearings and/or in writing to the Commission. All regulatory filings are submitted to the Secretary of the Commonwealth for publication in the Massachusetts Register.

Public Record Compliance

During CY2025, the Commission's Records Access Officer received and responded to approximately 225 requests for public records. When necessary, the Commission has withheld exempt records under G. L. c. 4, § 7 (26), in order to safeguard records considered to be confidential under its statutes and regulations and the Public Records Law. In January 2026, the Commission filed its annual report with the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Public Records Division. As needed, it consults with the division to ensure compliance. The Commission's operating principles include a focus on conducting all processes openly and transparently. To that end, staff regularly post the following:

- Applications granted provisional and final licensure, which can be found on the [Licensing Application Decisions](#) section of the Public Documents page on the Commission's Website; and
- Executive summaries, public meeting minutes, and other materials presented during Commission public meetings, which can be found on the [Public Documents](#) page of the Commission's website.

The Legal department also consults on the maintenance of the [Open Data Platform](#).

Audits

During this past fiscal year, the State Auditor's Office chose to audit the Commission during July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2024, to examine the calculation, collecting, and accounting for fees and fines collected in the Marijuana Regulation Fund (MRF). Additionally, the Auditor reviewed processes and procedures relative to HCAs, which are the required contracts between licensees and the cities and towns in which they operate, as well as related CIFs.

Commission staff met with the Auditor's team for nearly a year and spent hundreds of hours reviewing procedures with the investigators, then provided formal responses to initial findings before the State Auditor's final report was published on August 14, 2025.

In July 2024, the agency had self-identified that a number of administrative extensions had been requested by and granted to Massachusetts licensees without requiring payment of the applicable prorated fees. Once the failure to collect fees was discovered, the Commission began billing for uncollected fees that were identified. To date, the agency has collected over 70% of identified fees and continues to pursue

collection of the remaining balance through the State Comptroller Billing and Receivable System.

The Commission also updated its licensing software in July 2024 to accept pro-rated extension applications and fees. Fees are now paid prior to the Commission's granting of an extension, eliminating the need to bill licensees.

It is critically important to note that neither the Auditor nor the Office of the Inspector General, which completed [a similar review](#) in 2025, identified any evidence of fraud by Commission employees in their reports. The Commission has continued its collaboration with the Auditor's team and has provided [updates](#) during FY2026 to the Auditor as requested.

Research

The Commission's Research department currently consists of a Chief of Research, two Project Coordinators, and two Research Analysts. Although there is ongoing staffing and funding limitations, the Commission plans to develop the Center for Cannabis Research and Policy (CCRP) to advance collaboration for cannabis policy research.

Section 17(a) of G.L. c.94G and St. 2017, c.55 requires the Commission to develop a research agenda to better understand the social and economic trends of cannabis in the Commonwealth. The law identifies at least seven categories of study and authorizes an expansion of that scope with the aim of informing future decisions that would aid in the closure of the unregulated marketplace and monitoring the public health impacts of cannabis and cannabis legalization.

Since the Commission completed all original one-time research items pursuant to St. 2017, c. 55 in 2022, it has focused on providing updates to metrics pursuant to Section 17(a) of G.L. c.94G. The Research department publishes two standardized reports in alternating years: 1) Industry Report and the 2) International Cannabis Policy Study (ICPS) Report.

In March, the Research department published the Commission's 14th comprehensive research report pursuant to G.L. c.94G § 17(a)(iii), G.L. c.94G § 17(a)(iv), and G.L. c.94G § 17(a)(v). This study serves to assess cannabis use trends in Massachusetts uses data from the ICPS Report. The ICPS Report is a quasi-experimental population-based survey conducted by the University of Waterloo that allows the monitoring and study of differential effects of cannabis policies and outcomes. Additionally, the department is currently drafting the next Industry Report, which is expected to be published in 2027.

The Research department continues to work internally, as well as collaborate with various state agencies, academic researchers, and other stakeholders to employ primary and secondary data collection methods to examine a spectrum of items. As cannabis policy research gains interest nationwide, the Commission set both long- and short-term goals to ensure its research is high-quality, impactful, comprehensive, and collaborative. Thus, in addition to the ICPS Report, during FY2026, the department has also published one peer-reviewed scientific article, one editorial commentary, and gave six presentations at national scientific conferences, academic institutions, and state government conferences to advance the study of cannabis policy.

The Research department served as Guest Editors for the first Specialty Update on Cannabis for the

scientific journal Clinical Therapeutics in July of 2023. Due to the success of the first Specialty Update, members of the Research department were requested to serve again as Guest Editors for a second issue of the scientific journal Clinical Therapeutics, focused on the intersection of cannabis research and policy, this time with a focus on medical programs and therapeutics, which was published in January 2026. This Special Issue continues Massachusetts' trajectory as a leader in applied cannabis research and evidence-based policy.

Additionally, the Research department also coordinated a Symposium presented at the 2025 Annual Research Society on Marijuana (RSMj) conference entitled, Ensuring Cannabis Policies aren't Half Baked: Pairing Policy with Science and featuring CANNRA colleagues, including: Dr. Kaitlin Kosinski, Research Scientist at the New York State Office of Cannabis Management; Dr. Lirit Franks, Research Associate at the University of Utah School of Medicine, and Dr. Julie K. Johnson, Chief of Research at the Commission. This Symposium highlighted the intersection of cannabis research and regulation, as well as the unique Massachusetts experience of a cannabis regulatory governance body including an internal Research department and the applied cannabis research pursuant to Section 17(a) of G.L. c.94G and St. 2017, c.55. The Research department has also coordinated a Symposium to present at the 2026 Annual Research Society on Marijuana (RSMj) conference entitled, "Weed Work Well Together": State Approaches to Cannabis Research and Regulation, Collaboration is Critical, and featuring CANNRA colleagues, to be presented in July 2026.

The Research department continues to serve on external committees to expand national collaborative efforts. The Chief of Research serves as co-chair on the CANNRA Medical Cannabis Subcommittee working with other state regulators from across the country and is the Associate Editor for policy research for the [scientific journal Cannabis](#). Research staff are also members and actively participate in the RSMj, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Cannabis Subcommittee, and CANNRA Subcommittees, including hemp, public health and education, and federal policy.

Additionally, it has been a successful year for external grant collaborations to advance G.L. c.94G goals and Commission priorities. The Research department has successfully contributed to multiple national grants, including: Drs. Leah Ranney and Sarah Kowitt's Developing and Strengthening Cannabis Warnings; and Dr. Andy Hyatt's Impact of cannabis legalization and commercialization on substance use and mental health outcomes in psychosis. The Commission is working to establish an expendable trust to receive monies from collaborative grants secured for critical cannabis research in Massachusetts and beyond.

Table 5. Commission Research Products from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Colby, A., Edwards, V., Humiston, G., Johnson, JK. (2026, March). Cannabis Use Trends in Massachusetts. Findings from the International Cannabis Policy Study, 2019-2023
Hyatt AS, Flores MW, Johnson JK , Bien-Aime D, Evins EA, Ongur D, Le Cook B. Cannabis Use Among Individuals With Psychosis After State-Level Commercial Cannabis Legalization. JAMA Psychiatry. October 2025. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/article-abstract/2840020 . DOI:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2025.2539

Johnson JK, Humiston G, Colby A. Cannabis Research, Policy, and Therapeutics— An International Quasi-Experiment in Cannabis Policy—Part 1 (2026). Clin Ther. January 2026. [Cannabis Research, Policy, and Therapeutics—An International Quasi-Experiment in Cannabis Policy— Part 1 \(2026\) - Clinical Therapeutics](#) DOI: [10.1016/j.clinthera.2025.12.005](#)

Johnson JK, Colby A, Edwards V, Humiston G. *A seven-year snapshot of the adult-use and medical-use cannabis industry in Massachusetts— What can revenue and costs tell us about overall industry health?* Research Society on Marijuana (RSMj) July 2025. Symposium Presentation.

Humiston G, Colby A, Edwards V, Fiske K, Carter A, Johnson JK. *Outlook of the Massachusetts Medical Cannabis Program Eight Years After Adult-Use Legalization and Implementation.* Research Society on Marijuana (RSMj) July 2025. Poster Presentation.

Colby A, Humiston G, Edwards V, Johnson JK. *Where There's Smoke: Estimating Access to Legal Cannabis in Massachusetts through Objective and Subjective Measures.* Research Society on Marijuana (RSMj) July 2025. Poster Presentation.

Invited Speaker (February 2026). Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Course, Public Health Perspectives on U.S. Drug Policy [Panelists: Chief of Research, Julie Johnson, Director of Equity Programming, Silea Williams, Audrey Johnson (MD), Kirsten Davis-Franklin (IL), Fernanda Alonso Aranda (MD)]

Invited Speaker (April 2026). Parabola Center for Law and Policy, Webinar. Demystifying the Cannabis Research Process. [Panelists: Chief of Research, Julie Johnson; Dr. Faith English; Ben Adlin]

Invited Speaker (April 2026). Cannaversations: Beyond Cannabis Legalization, Healthcare's Role in Repairing Harm and Advancing Health Equity. Fireside Conversation, From Access to Integration. [Speaker: Chief of Research, Julie Johnson]

Table 6. Commission Grant Contributions from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Andy Hyatt, Harvard Medical School and Cambridge Health Alliance [Funded]	Title: <i>Impact of cannabis legalization and commercialization on substance use and mental health outcomes in psychosis.</i> Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health/ NIDA Role: Cannabis and Drug Policy Advisor
Dan Berlowitz, University of Massachusetts, Lowell [Funded]	Title: <i>Enhancing Opportunities for Addiction Research in the Merrimack Valley</i> Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health/ NIDA Role: Mentor, Cannabis Control Commission
Leah Ranney and Sarah D. Kowitt, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill [Funded]	Title: <i>Developing and Strengthening Cannabis Warnings</i> Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health/ NIDA Role: Expert Panel Member

CONCLUSION

FY2026 has been a year of considerable change and forward progress for the Commission. The implementation of An Act Modernizing the Commonwealth's Cannabis Laws requires substantial regulatory action, structural adjustment, and operational coordination across the agency. With a newly appointed Chair and Commissioners in place, the Commission is beginning its next phase of modernization with renewed leadership and a clear directive to strengthen oversight and support the continued development of the Commonwealth's cannabis industry.

The Commission advanced several regulatory initiatives, including enabling Social Consumption Establishments, extending delivery exclusivity, strengthening testing and enforcement programs, and adopting emergency regulations to implement expanded retail license caps, increased daily purchase limits, revised ownership standards, and forthcoming changes to the medical market. These actions demonstrate the agency's commitment to public health, safety, equity, and accountability.

Throughout this period of transition, the Commission maintained essential regulatory functions that support patients, consumers, businesses, and municipalities. The agency continued inspections, licensing, testing oversight, public education, and administration of the Medical Use of Marijuana Program, while also developing the guidance and infrastructure needed to carry out new statutory mandates.

Significant work remains to fully implement the updated statutory framework and support a growing and evolving industry. The Commission is actively engaged in this effort and remains committed to ensuring a healthy, safe, equitable, and well-regulated cannabis marketplace that reflects the Commonwealth's values and priorities.





TO: Commissioners

FROM: Chris Harding, Chair

DATE: September 30, 2026

RE: Cannabis Cultivation Licensing Moratoria

Background and Purpose

The Cannabis Control Commission's (Commission) temporary moratorium on new cultivation license applications provides an opportunity to evaluate whether restricting new cultivation licenses could meaningfully improve the health and stability of Massachusetts' cannabis market. The Commission's recent policy report, *Cannabis Cultivation Licensing Moratoria in Other Jurisdictions*, reviews experiences in Oregon, Oklahoma, Montana, Rhode Island, Washington, and Connecticut.

A key lesson from these jurisdictions is that **a limit on the number of cultivation licensees is not the same thing as a limit on the amount of cannabis that can be produced**. Many states found that production continued to increase even when licensing was restricted.

The moratorium therefore serves primarily as a tool to slow new entry and create time for the Commission to fully understand current market conditions, not as a stand-alone mechanism for reducing production, inventory, or wholesale price pressure.

Evidence from Other Jurisdictions

1. License Moratoria Restrict Entry, Not Supply A moratorium prevents new businesses from entering the market but allows existing licensees to continue operating and, in many cases, to expand production capacity. If the policy objective is to prevent continued growth in licensee count, a moratorium can accomplish that. If the objective is to reduce aggregate production or oversupply, evidence suggests a moratorium alone will not achieve that outcome.

Montana allowed existing cultivators to increase their cultivation tier despite restrictions on new licenses, demonstrating how authorized production capacity can grow even when license count does not.

2. Entry Restrictions Do Not Necessarily Stabilize the Market In Oregon, harvest volumes continued increasing even after licensing restrictions were introduced. Market consolidation persisted, and supply remained high.

In Oklahoma, a 2023 study found regulated medical cannabis supply was **32 times estimated demand**, even during a statewide moratorium. Wholesale prices had already declined significantly before the moratorium, making it difficult to attribute price changes to licensing restrictions.

Oklahoma also demonstrates the risk that temporary moratoria can become effectively permanent without objective criteria for reopening licensing.

3. Rhode Island Offers a Useful Comparison Rhode Island's moratorium was paired with detailed market-capacity analysis. Approximately **24 percent of licensed cultivation space was unused**, production increased dramatically in 2023, and inventories grew significantly while retail demand grew only modestly.

Rhode Island concluded that existing cultivation capacity was sufficient to meet demand and that additional licenses were not needed.

The central lesson is to measure Massachusetts' actual cultivation capacity before determining whether additional capacity is appropriate.

Limits of Evidence

The report cautions that available evidence is insufficient to link moratoria to reduced total cultivation capacity, reduced production, reduced excess inventory, increased wholesale prices, improved operator profitability, or reduced market concentration.

Impacts on social equity vary significantly depending on policy design.

Information Needed Before a Final Commission Decision

To support a long-term licensing policy, the Commission should gather additional information in several areas.

1. Consumer and Patient Impact of Wholesale Price Changes: The Commission should assess retail price impacts, medical patient affordability, price pass-through, and patient cost burdens. Higher regulated-market prices may push consumers toward unregulated suppliers, where products lack testing and safety. Additional study is needed regarding price sensitivity, substitution patterns, and unregulated market activity.

2. Financial Health of Existing Operators: Before drawing conclusions about operator profitability or financial sustainability, the Commission should gather additional data about

the financial health of cultivation businesses. As of 2026, Massachusetts has **178 active cultivation licenses** and **36 cultivation licenses revoked, surrendered, or expired since 2018**. License turnover can occur for many reasons and does not, on its own, indicate financial instability or lack of viability.

To place this turnover in context, the Commission may benefit from comparing Massachusetts' cultivation-license exit rate with business-exit rates in other cannabis markets and in similar capital-intensive industries. A comparative analysis, along with aggregated or standardized financial information, would help determine whether market challenges are widespread or consistent with normal business dynamics.

3. Baseline Market Capacity Assessment: A Massachusetts baseline should determine whether the state has too many cultivation businesses, too much authorized capacity, too much actual production, or demand lower than supply. These issues may require different policy tools.

Risks of a Permanent or Indefinite License Cap

A long-term restriction could generate several unintended consequences.

- 1. License Scarcity Premium:** Restrictions on new licenses can create a secondary-market premium, raising license values and barriers to entry.
- 2. Favoring Incumbency:** Allowing existing cultivators to expand while blocking new entrants may increase market concentration.
- 3. Equity Considerations:** Equity impacts depend on policy details. Some states preserve equity pathways even within restrictive frameworks.

Policy Options for Massachusetts

Option 1: Continue Temporary Moratorium While Building Capacity Baseline: Use the moratorium to collect data on capacity, production, and demand.

Option 2: Capacity or Production Cap: Directly regulate authorized canopy, production limits, or utilization.

Option 3: Hybrid Model: Combine market-wide capacity limits, controlled license numbers, and specific equity pathways.

Conceptually: **Market capacity = license count × authorized capacity × utilization/production.**

Option 4: License Cap: Limit license numbers alone; effect on supply would be limited without complementary capacity controls.

If Long-Term Restrictions Are Adopted

Any long-term restriction should include a sunset date, objective criteria, supply-and-demand analysis, a mechanism for reopening licensing, equity protections, concentration monitoring, and periodic review of capacity and utilization.

Commission Decision Framework

The Commission should consider the following questions:

1. Do we need fewer cultivation businesses?
2. Do we need less cultivation capacity or production?
3. What market structure do we want over the next five to ten years?

Chair's Takeaways

A temporary moratorium is a useful market-management and information-gathering tool, but it does not by itself stabilize the cultivation market.

The most important lesson is that controlling license count is not the same as controlling production.

Massachusetts should build a reliable understanding of cultivation capacity and demand before deciding whether a permanent cap is warranted.

A fundamental question is whether the Commonwealth is trying to limit the number of businesses or the amount of cannabis entering the market. For market stabilization, the latter may be more important.

Licensing restrictions may help manage entry, but they should be accompanied by evaluation of market supply, capacity, inventory, competition, and equity impacts to ensure decisions lead to a healthier market.

Recommendation

Extend the existing moratorium through June 2027. This extension will provide the Commission with additional time to evaluate the data, assess the effectiveness of the current approach, and determine whether we should continue the current moratorium or potentially pivot to a larger moratorium.



Licensing Freeze Data

Cultivation market indicators, June – September 2026

Overall Totals, Surrenders, and Non-Renewals

For Cultivator Licenses, All-Time

Category	Count	Total Min Canopy (sq ft)	Total Max Canopy (sq ft)
Approved Cultivator Applications	398	7,070,393	10,070,000
Cultivators granted Provisional Licenses	354	5,835,350	8,465,000
Cultivators granted Commence Ops	157	2,915,157	4,125,000
All Cultivator License Surrenders	71	1,650,069	2,215,000
Commence Ops Cultivator License Surrenders	11	222,011	300,000
Commence Ops Surrendered in the past year	4	10,004	35,000
Cultivators Expired in the past year with Incomplete or Withdrawn Renewal	11	405,030	630,000

- Of the 398 approved applications, 44 (11%) have not reached Provisional License.
- 44% of Cultivators granted Provisional License were granted Commence Ops.
- Commence Ops surrenders equal 15% of all surrendered cultivator licenses (11 of 71) and 13% of maximum approved canopy (300K of 8.5M sq ft).



Total Canopy Authorized by the State

For active Commence Operations Cultivator Licenses

Tier	Count	Total Min Canopy (sq ft)	Total Max Canopy (sq ft)
Tier 01: up to 5,000 sq. ft.	18	18	90,000
Tier 02: 5,001 to 10,000 sq. ft.	35	175,035	350,000
Tier 03: 10,001 to 20,000 sq. ft.	31	310,031	620,000
Tier 04: 20,001 to 30,000 sq. ft.	7	140,007	210,000
Tier 05: 30,001 to 40,000 sq. ft.	9	270,009	360,000
Tier 06: 40,001 to 50,000 sq. ft.	9	360,009	450,000
Tier 07: 50,001 to 60,000 sq. ft.	1	50,001	60,000
Tier 08: 60,001 to 70,000 sq. ft.	1	60,001	70,000
Tier 10: 80,001 to 90,000 sq. ft.	6	480,006	540,000
Tier 11: 90,001 to 100,000 sq. ft.	6	540,006	600,000
Grand Total	123	2,385,123	3,350,000

- Tiers 1 to 3 hold 84 of 123 licenses (68%) but only 1.06M of 3.35M sq ft of maximum authorized canopy (32%).
- The Tier 11 licenses alone account for 600,000 sq ft, or 18% of maximum authorized canopy.



Pipeline Saturation

Total square footage of all provisional and in-progress applications

Category	Total Min Canopy (sq ft)	Total Max Canopy (sq ft)
Pending or Reopened New Cultivator Applications	1,501,051	1,880,000
Active Provisional License Cultivators	265,025	440,000
Application Approved, License Fee Payment Pending	45,002	60,000
Total	1,811,078	2,380,000

- The pipeline totals 1.8M to 2.4M sq ft, roughly 84% of the 2.8M sq ft of maximum canopy tied to surrendered or non-renewed licenses.
- Pending new applications make up 79% of the pipeline, so most of it is not yet licensed.



Approved Tier Changes | June – September 2026

Cultivators approved for relegation to move down tiers and expansion to move up, decreasing or increasing their potential harvest.

Request Type	Count	Change Type	Canopy Change
Tier Relegation	1	(-)	Tier 7 to Tier 3 (- 40K sq ft)
Tier Expansion	1	(+)	Tier 2 to Tier 3 (+10K sq ft)

**Overall Approved
Change:
(-30,000 sq ft)**



Average Wholesale Prices per Pound

Tier	Transferring Licensee Price/Lb	Recipient Licensee Price/Lb
Tier 01: up to 5,000 sq. ft.	\$1,093.70	\$1,093.82
Tier 02: 5,001 to 10,000 sq. ft.	\$997.36	\$999.19
Tier 03: 10,001 to 20,000 sq. ft.	\$727.77	\$730.43
Tier 04: 20,001 to 30,000 sq. ft.	\$728.99	\$728.95
Tier 05: 30,001 to 40,000 sq. ft.	\$450.16	\$450.22
Tier 06: 40,001 to 50,000 sq. ft.	\$941.20	\$942.93
Tier 10: 80,001 to 90,000 sq. ft.	\$598.41	\$606.50
Tier 11: 90,001 to 100,000 sq. ft.	\$27.92	\$27.92
Total	\$851.09	\$852.82

Month	Transferring Licensee Price/Lb	Recipient Licensee Price/Lb
June	\$907.79	\$909.11
July	\$839.56	\$839.31
August	\$831.94	\$832.48
September	\$778.93	\$783.95
Total	\$838.14	\$839.85

Sell-Through Rates

For product received June – September.

Product Category	Sold by Weight (Oz)			Sold by Unit (Each)		
	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days
Buds	21%	25%	27%	—	—	—
Concentrate	20%	25%	27%	50%	66%	72%
Infused Edible	—	—	—	29%	39%	43%
Infused Non-Edible	—	—	—	45%	61%	67%
Plants	—	—	—	48%	49%	50%
Shake / Trim	19%	24%	26%	—	—	—

- Sell-Through is the ratio of product sold vs. received in the same timespan.
- For example, 21% of Buds received on Day 1 are sold by Day 30, 25% by Day 60 and 27% by Day 90.



Supply-Demand Equilibrium Metrics

Total Inventory on hand as of 10/2/26 and average sales volumes for June – September.

Category	Amount	Unit
Bud in Retailer Vaults	23,376,609	Oz
Shake and Trim in Retailer Vaults	5,227,504	Oz
Average Daily Sales Volume for Bud	18,166	Oz
Average Daily Sales Volume for Shake and Trim	6,156	Oz
Days of Inventory on Hand for Bud	1,286	Days
Days of Inventory on Hand for Shake and Trim	849	Days

3.5 years

of bud inventory at the current sales pace

2.3 years

of shake and trim inventory at the current sales pace



Harvest and Sales

Month-over-month changes in packaged harvest weight and sales weight at retail.

Month	Packaged Harvest Weight (oz)	Monthly Change	Sales Weight (oz)	Monthly Change	Sold vs Harvested
June	10,938,406	--	761,092	--	7%
July	17,147,033	61%	812,648	7%	4.7%
August	9,471,859	-47%	789,640	-3%	8.3%
September	10,292,858	10%	768,303	-3%	7.5%

- Packaged harvest runs 12 to 21 times monthly sales weight, which keeps adding to the surplus rather than drawing it down.
- Harvest swings sharply month to month (July +61%, August -47%) while sales stay flat near 0.8M oz.
- A positive variance indicates surplus accumulation; four months is too few to establish a trend.



Price Elasticity

Harvest volume, sales activity and average retail price.

Month	Packaged Harvest Weight (oz)	Total Sales (# of receipts)	Delivery Sales (# of receipts)	Avg. Retail Price / Gram
May	10,292,858	4,307,746	34,908	\$3.89
June	10,938,406	4,187,048	31,656	\$3.87
July	17,147,033	4,455,741	34,820	\$3.83
August	9,471,859	4,360,486	33,344	\$3.81
September	10,292,858	4,196,796	33,623	—

- Average retail price per gram slipped from \$3.89 in May to \$3.81 in August (-2.1%) while receipt counts held in a narrow 4.2M to 4.5M range.
- Delivery is about 0.8% of total receipts each month.
- More data is needed to establish a trend between product supply and sales volume against declining average retail prices.



Explanations for Licensing Data Points from MassCIP

Approved Cultivator Applications

Establishment License New Applications

- Type = Cultivator
- Application Status = Approved

Cultivators Granted Provisional License

Establishment License Report

- Type = Marijuana Cultivator
- LIC_ORIGINAL_START_DATE = NOT blank

Cultivators Granted Commence Ops

Establishment License Report

- Type = Marijuana Cultivator
- COMMENCE_OPERATIONS_DATE = NOT blank

All Cultivator License Surrenders

Establishment License Report

- Type = Marijuana Cultivator
- LIC_STATUS = Surrendered

Commence Ops Cultivator License Surrenders

Establishment License Report

- Type = Marijuana Cultivator
- LIC_STATUS = Surrendered
- COMMENCE_OPERATIONS_DATE = NOT blank

Commence Ops Surrendered in the past year

Establishment License Report

- Type = Marijuana Cultivator
- LIC_STATUS = Surrendered
- COMMENCE_OPERATIONS_DATE = NOT blank
- LIC_SURRENDERED_DATE in the past 365 days (was measured on 9/28)

Cultivators Expired in the past year with Incomplete or Withdrawn Renewal

Establishment License Report and Establishment Renewal Application Report are joined in Powerbi.

- Type = Marijuana Cultivator
- LIC_EXPIRATION_DATE in the last 365 days (was measured on 9/28)
- APPLICATION_STATUS (of renewal) = INCOMPLETE or WITHDRAWN

*Detailed note 3 of the 11 are Surrendered, 8 of the 11 are Expired. 5 incomplete, 6 withdrawn.



Cannabis Control Commission

Public Meeting

October 8, 2026 at 10:00 am
Hybrid via Microsoft Teams



Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Commissioners' Comments and Updates
3. Executive Director and Commission Staff Report
4. Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training Renewals
5. Enforcement Actions
6. Commission Discussion and Votes
7. New Business Not Anticipated at the Time of Posting
8. Next Meeting Date
9. Adjournment



Commissioner Comments and Updates



Executive Director and Commission Staff Report

Executive Director and Commission Staff Report

1. 10th Anniversary Video and Webpage
2. Social Consumption Regulatory Implementation Update
3. Host Community Municipal Equity Update
4. Licensing Data Updates





10 Years of Adult-use Cannabis in Massachusetts

AnnMarie Burtt, Director of Digital and Creative Services

10 Years of Adult-use Cannabis in Massachusetts

November 8, 2016	The Massachusetts Legalization, Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Initiative, also known as <u>Question 4</u>, was approved with 53% of the vote
July 28, 2017	Governor Baker Signs Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017
September 1, 2017	Appointment of the Inaugural Cannabis Control Commission
November 20, 2018	First Adult-use Retail Stores Open
October 30, 2020	Adult-use Sales Surpass \$1 Billion
May 28, 2021	First Adult-use Delivery Business Authorized to Open in Massachusetts
November 9, 2022	Chapter 180 of the Acts of 2022 goes into Effect
August 31, 2023	Adult-use Sales Surpass \$5 Billion
April 19, 2026	Chapter 65 of the Acts of 2026 goes into Effect
September 5, 2026	Adult-use Sales Surpass \$10 Billion



An aerial photograph of Boston, Massachusetts, taken during the "golden hour" of sunset. The city's skyline is visible in the distance, with the harbor reflecting the warm, orange and pink light of the setting sun. In the foreground, a dense forest of trees with autumn foliage in shades of green, yellow, and orange is visible. A multi-lane highway with traffic is seen winding through the city. On the right side, a large building with a prominent golden dome, likely the Massachusetts State House, is partially visible. The overall atmosphere is serene and scenic.

10 Years \$10 Billion

A Decade of Legalization for the Massachusetts
Adult-use Cannabis Industry

10 Years of Adult-use Cannabis in Massachusetts

New webpage in Open Data featuring industry data visualizations

<https://masscannabiscontrol.com/10years>

- Total Gross Sales
- Number of Active Licensed Businesses
- FY26 Total Tax Revenue and Marijuana Regulation Fund Allocations
- Number of Total Registered Agent Roles
- Funds Distributed via the Social Equity Trust Fund

Thank you to the following departments, divisions, and teams for their collaboration on this initiative:

- Digital and Creative Services
- Chief of Staff and Communications
- CTIO and Data
- Legal





Host Community Municipal Equity Update

Host Community Municipal Equity Data | Aug. 13, 2026

Overview	Total
The total number of applications received since May 21, 2024	68*
Accepted/Compliant HCMEs	47*
Number of HCME applications that have been re-opened	21
Pending review	0
46 Towns Compliant with HCME Requirements <i>Abington, Amesbury, Belmont, Billerica, Boston, Bourne, Brimfield, Brockton, Brookline, Cambridge, Charlemont, Charlton, Dartmouth, Easthampton, Essex, Framingham, Franklin, Groton, Hanson, Haverhill, Holliston, Holyoke, Lakeville, Lanesborough, Lee, Lynn, Marlborough, Maynard, Medford, Melrose, Merrimac, Monson, Newton, Northampton, Palmer, Pittsfield, Plainfield, Rockland, Rowley Sheffield, Shirley, Shrewsbury, Somerville, Swansea, West Tisbury, Westfield</i>	

**Of the submissions received and accepted, one was from a municipality that is not a Host Community and thus, not subject to Commission regulations. That municipality submitted its town bylaws and ordinances regarding its town-wide ban on Marijuana licenses.*



HCME: Compliance Review Trends

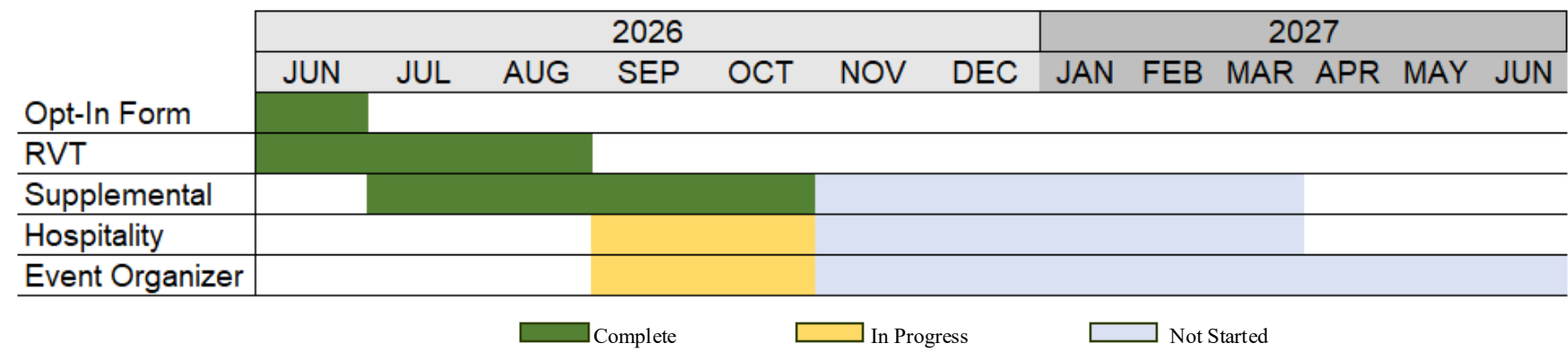
- HCs selecting the wrong option within MassCIP:
 - Local Approval 1:1 Basis
 - SE Exclusivity
 - Model Ordinance
 - Another process
- HCs need to demonstrate *where* required information is posted (e.g., website, photo)
 - Equity Plan, applicant pool data, all required steps of local approval process
- HCs need to provide goals and how those goals will be measured to assess their efforts to promote equity participation
- HCA processes are *part* of HCME but does not by itself demonstrate a municipality meeting minimal municipal equity requirements.
- HCs must indicate how it will evaluate and score applicants





Social Consumption Regulatory Implementation Project

Project Timeline



COMPLETE

- ✓ RVT Renewal Application & Review Checklist
- ✓ Supplemental Inspection Resources
- ✓ Temporary Consumption Events Review
- ✓ 2nd Local Advisory External Stakeholder Meeting
- ✓ Off-Hours Inspection Requirements
- ✓ Pre-Event Safety Checklist Draft Template

In Progress

- Supplemental License Automation Requirements
- HCA Guidance Updates
- Existing Operational Process Review & Updates
- Shelf Stable Food Guidance
- Reporting Requirements Guidance
- Hospitality Application & Inspection Requirements
- Event Organizer Compliance & Enforcement Assessment
- Zoning Tracker Automation



Next Steps

- Build Automation for Supplemental Licensing Process
- Develop Supplemental License Application and functionality in MassCIP
- Finalize HCA Guidance & Municipal Guidance
- Scope Hospitality Application and Inspection requirements
- Continue reviewing Marijuana Event Organizer & Temporary Consumption Event Requirements
- Complete updates to internal processes, documents for Supplemental

Key Risks / Considerations

- ! **Critical Resource Capacity Constraints:** Changes in staffing levels and team capacity present a significant risk, impacting knowledge retention, workload distribution, and timely completion of deliverables
- ! **Technology Requirements:** Automation opportunities have been identified, but limited capacity to complete may impact the speed at which solutions are developed and deployed
- ! **Expanding Initiatives:** Additional initiatives create competing demands for resources, increasing the need for cross-project coordination
- ! **Project Management Resources:** This complex initiative relies on manual processes rather than integrated project management tools, increasing coordination efforts and creating additional administrative burden





Licensing Data Updates

Commence Operations| October 8, 2026

The totals below are a snapshot of current Commence Operations licensees.

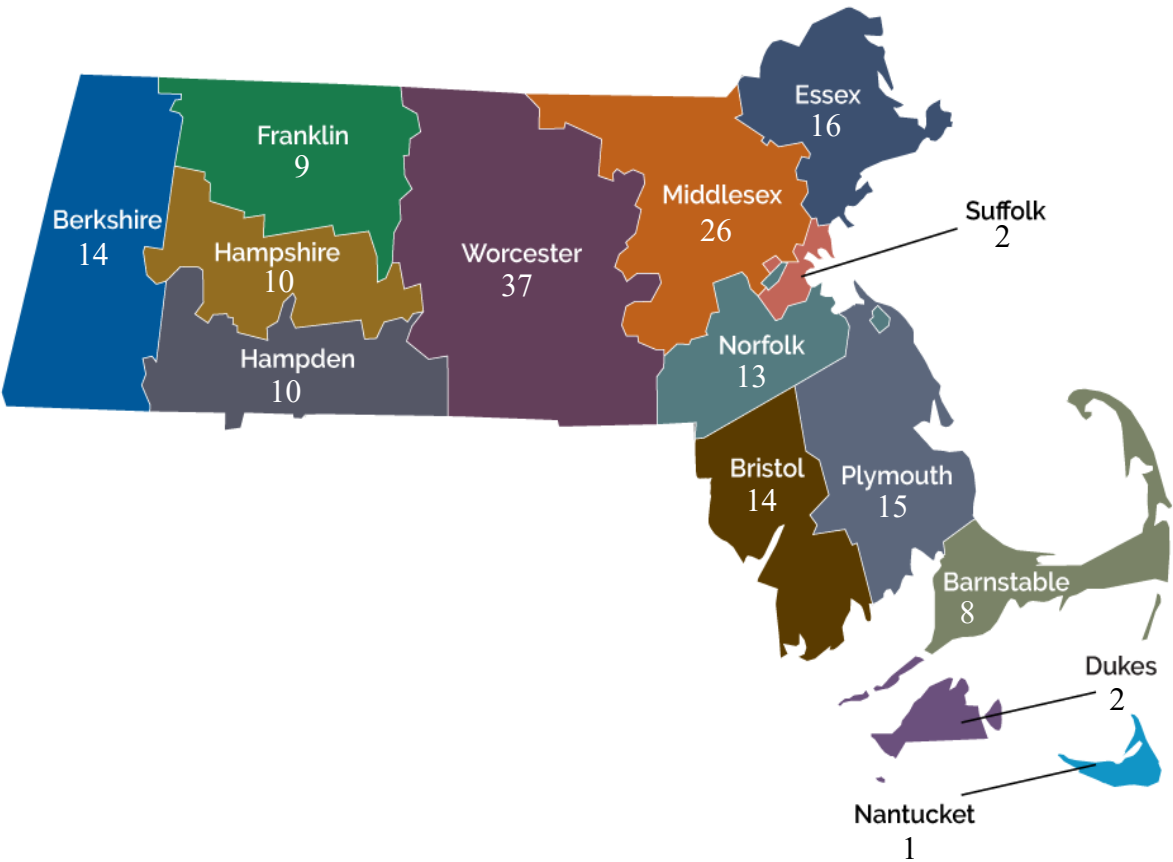
Type	#
Commence Operations (all-time, all statuses)	810
Active Commence Operations	690



Host Community Agreements Data | October 8, 2026

Overview	Total	SEP & EEA	DBE
The total number of applications received since March 1, 2024, containing an HCA	2,074	373	188
Number of Model HCAs received	526	58	54
Compliant Model HCAs	508	50	54
Number of Model HCA Waivers received	280	72	21
Compliant HCAs	1,888	331	170
Non-Compliant HCAs	100	16	11

Counties with Compliant HCAs



Extension Requests Data | October 8, 2026

Extensions	Total
Extension requests received	3,167
Extension requests that received conditional pre-approval	43
Extension requests granted	2,942
Average number of days requested	86





Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training Renewals

Staff Recommendations on Provisional Licenses

1. Marijuana Handlers™ (#DCCR794128)
2. Seed Talent (#RVR453169)





Enforcement Actions

Enforcement Actions: Stipulated Agreements

1. Highminded, LLC





Commission Discussion and Votes

Commission Discussion and Votes

1. Ninth Annual Activities Report
2. Administrative License Extension Discussion
3. Discussion of Cultivation Licensing Freeze
4. Discussion of Additional License Freezes
5. Discussion of Chapter 65 Fall Regulatory Round





Ninth Annual Activities Report

FY26 By the Numbers



\$260M

Sales and
Excise Tax



\$16.4M

Non-Tax
Revenue



\$10B

Gross Cannabis
Sales



38

Public
Meetings



\$156M

Record Sales in the
Month of June 2026



30,000

Constituent
Phone Calls

The Industry to Date



690

Marijuana
Establishments



91

Medical Marijuana
Establishments



1,667

Compliant Host
Community Agreements



18,523

Unique Registered
Agents



1,275

Social Equity Program
Participants



76,289

Certified
Active Patients

Commission Discussion and Votes

2. Administrative License Extension Discussion
3. Discussion of Cultivation Licensing Freeze
4. Discussion of Additional License Freezes
5. Discussion of Chapter 65 Fall Regulatory Round





Discussion of Chapter 65 Fall Regulatory Round

Regulatory Policy Questions

1. Whether the Commission would like to establish a hearing process for licensees listed on the delinquency list. The Commission may structure the hearing process as follows:
 1. Option 1: Hearing Officer hears initial complaint, creates the record, and offers recommendation to ED; ED makes a decision which is final*
 2. Option 2: Hearing Officer hears initial complaint, creates the record, and offers recommendation to ED; ED makes a decision which Licensee may appeal to Board; Board makes a decision which is final*
 3. Option 3: Hearing Officer hears initial complaint, creates the record, and offers recommendation directly to Board; Board makes a decision which is final*

*Final agency action may be appealed to Superior Court





Upcoming Meetings & Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings and Important Dates

Next Meeting Date

October 22, 2026
Public Meeting
Remote via Teams
10:00 am

2026 Public Meetings*
November 12
December 10

**Public Meeting dates are tentative and subject to change*





Additional Licensing Data

Licensing Applications | October 8, 2026



Licensing Applications | October 8, 2026

Type	Pending Application	Pre-Certified Endorsement	Initial License Declined	Provisionally Approved	Provisional License	Final License	Commence Operation	Active Commence Operation	Total
Craft Marijuana Cooperative	2	N/A	0	0	3	1	0	0	6
Marijuana Courier License	25	N/A	0	0	17	2	14	9	58
Marijuana Courier Pre-Certification	22	132	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	154
Independent Testing Laboratory	1	N/A	0	2	2	0	16	10	21
Marijuana Cultivator	54	N/A	2	44	183	15	156	122	454
Marijuana Delivery Operator License	9	N/A	0	0	24	0	21	15	54
Marijuana Delivery Operator Pre-Certification	18	123	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	141
Marijuana Microbusiness	9	N/A	0	4	21	2	16	12	52
Marijuana Product Manufacturer	32	N/A	1	47	126	19	136	111	361
Marijuana Research Facility	7	N/A	0	1	0	1	0	0	9
Marijuana Retailer	41	N/A	2	29	107	7	442	405	628
Marijuana Transporter with Other Existing ME License	4	N/A	0	3	4	0	4	3	15
Microbusiness Delivery Endorsement	1	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	8
Third Party Transporter	17	N/A	0	0	1	1	5	3	24
Standards Laboratory	0	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical Marijuana Establishment	12	N/A	0	2	10	0	94	91	118
Total	254	260	5	132	498	48	906	781	2,103

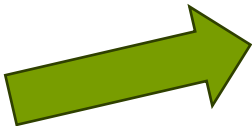


Licensing Applications | October 8, 2026

The totals below are distinct license numbers that have submitted all required packets.

The 2,018 applications represent 1,175 separate entities

Type	#
MTC Priority	265
Economic Empowerment Priority	144
Expedited Review	826
General Applicant	783
Total	2,018



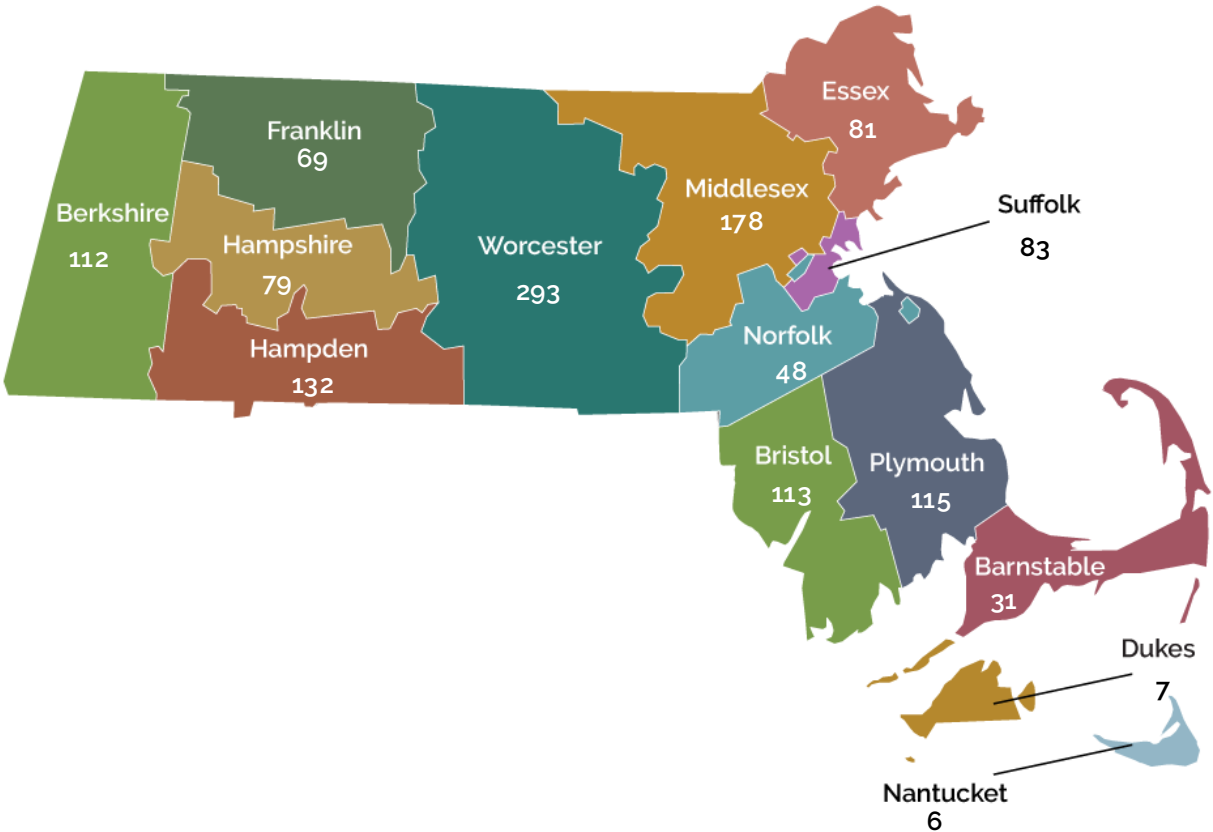
Type	#
Expedited: License Type	92
Expedited: Social Equity Participant	459
Expedited: Disadvantaged Business Enterprise	189
Expedited: Two or More Categories	86
Total	826



Marijuana Establishment Licenses | October 8, 2026

The totals below represent entities in each county that have achieved at least a provisional license

County	#	+/-
Barnstable	31	0
Berkshire	112	1
Bristol	113	0
Dukes	7	0
Essex	81	0
Franklin	69	0
Hampden	132	1
Hampshire	79	0
Middlesex	178	2
Nantucket	6	0
Norfolk	48	2
Plymouth	115	0
Suffolk	83	0
Worcester	293	2
Total	1,347	8





**The Commission is in recess
until 11:45**