



Maryland Cannabis Administration Proposed Emergency Regulations for Implementation of the Cannabis Reform Act and the State's Adult-Use Cannabis Program

Linthicum Heights, MD (May 25, 2023) - Today, the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) posted the proposed emergency regulations for the implementation of the Cannabis Reform Act (CRA), and the State's Adult-Use Cannabis Program on their website. The emergency regulations can be accessed at the [link here](#).

These emergency regulations, pending approval by the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR), will authorize the sale of cannabis and cannabis products to individuals 21 years of age or older in Maryland on July 1, 2023.

Included in these new regulations are provisions to setup an adult-use cannabis market by:

- Allowing existing medical licensees to convert to a new license authorizing the cultivation, manufacturing, and sales of both medical and adult-use cannabis;
- Creating a single-supply chain for all products grown or produced in the State;
- Establishing the application and licensing process for new businesses;
- Establishing new license categories and types;
- Detailing procedures for the safe and secure sale and dispensing of cannabis to adult consumers; and
- Authorizing the dispensing of certain cannabis products to consumers over the age of 21.

The emergency regulations supplement the regulations governing the medical cannabis program, and ensure continued access for patients and caregivers by:

- Maintaining best practices for licensee security protocols, operations, safety, and product testing from the medical cannabis program;
- Establishing special accommodations for medical patients, including:
 - Reserved patient hours for medical-only dispensing;
 - Reserved patient lanes at the licensed dispensaries; and
 - Reserved products for medical patients.
- Maintaining the existing patient and caregiver registry and registration process;
- Ensuring all dispensaries retain clinical directors to provide education to patients on the medical use of cannabis; and
- Continuing the ability for medical patients to access products through delivery services.

Lastly, the emergency regulations begin to implement the critical social equity provisions that were a central focus of the Maryland General Assembly in the CRA by:

- Implementing the Social Equity Partnership Grant Program;
- Establishing reduced licensing and renewal fees for social equity businesses; and
- Requiring existing businesses to distribute to, or reserve distribution space for social equity businesses.

MCA anticipates that the emergency regulations will take effect by July 1. MCA will disseminate comprehensive guidance materials on important aspects of the emergency regulations such as

adult-use dispensing, advertising, packaging and labeling, and transfers of ownership. In addition, MCA will host a public webinar to answer stakeholder questions on the regulations. More information on the guidance materials and stakeholder webinar will be shared with licensed businesses and the public in the coming days. Questions may be sent to policy.mmcc@maryland.gov.

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