

## Adult-Use Cannabis

Public Act 101-0027 creates the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act and was signed into law by Governor JB Pritzker on June 25, 2019. Effective January 1, 2020, the Act legalizes the possession and private use of cannabis for Illinois residents over 21 years of age.



7/15/19

### LOCAL REGULATION OF CONSUMPTION

Municipalities may not restrict the private consumption of cannabis that is authorized by the Act. However, the Act prohibits the use of cannabis in public places, schools and child care facilities among other locations. Municipalities may adopt and enforce local ordinances to regulate possession and public consumption of cannabis so long as the regulations and penalties are consistent with the Act.

### HOME GROW LIMITED TO MEDICAL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Home grow cannabis will be authorized only for medical cannabis program participants, and is limited to five plants in their residence and subject to specified restrictions. Home grow of recreational cannabis by non-medical participants is prohibited. More information about the medical cannabis program is available via this link.



### ZONING

The Act preserves local zoning authority and directly authorizes municipalities to prohibit (opt out) or significantly limit the location of cannabis businesses by ordinance. Municipalities will have the authority to enact reasonable zoning regulations that are not in conflict with the act. This would include the authority to opt out of either commercial production or distribution (dispensaries) of adult-use cannabis within their jurisdiction. Municipalities also may enact zoning ordinances and regulations designating the time, place, manner and number of cannabis business operations, including minimum distances between locations through conditional use permits.

### BUSINESS REGULATION

In addition to zoning authority, municipalities will have the authority to allow for on-premise use of cannabis at locations to be determined locally. The Act anticipates that local authorities will engage in inspections of cannabis-related businesses. Municipalities may establish and impose civil penalties for violations of the local ordinances and regulations.



## LOCAL REVENUE

Municipalities, by ordinance, may impose a Municipal Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax on adult-use cannabis products of up to 3% of the purchase price, in .25% increments. Counties may impose up to 3.75% in unincorporated areas, in .25% increments. The taxes imposed under this Act shall be in addition to all other occupation, privilege or excise taxes imposed by the State of Illinois or by any unit of local government, such as sales tax.



## SMOKE FREE ILLINOIS ACT

The Act applies the restrictions of the Smoke Free Illinois Act on smoking cannabis, and provides that property owners may prohibit the use of cannabis by any guest, lessee, customer or visitor. In addition, lessors may prohibit cultivation of cannabis by their lessees.

## EMPLOYER PROVISIONS

The Act provides employer protections including that nothing in the enactment prohibits employers from adopting reasonable zero-tolerance or drug-free workplace employment policies concerning drug testing, smoking, consumption, storage or use of cannabis in the workplace or while on-call. These policies must be applied in a nondiscriminatory manner. Employers may prohibit the use of cannabis by employees in the workplace, and engage in discipline, including termination, for violations of those policies and workplace rules.

## STATE LICENSING

The Act authorizes the production and distribution of cannabis and cannabis products through state-licensed cultivators, craft growers, infusers, transporters and dispensaries. Cannabis transporters will be separately licensed by the Act, as well. A market study due in March 2021 will inform future licensing. The state will issue licenses according to a graduated scale. By the end of the first year, there will be up to 295 dispensing organizations. The Act will allow up to 500 dispensing organizations by January 1, 2022. Cultivators will be capped at 50, and 100 craft growers will be allowed. By that same date, 100 infusers will also be authorized to be licensed.

## GRANTS AND INVESTMENT

The Act establishes the Restore, Reinvest and Renew (R3) Program to invest in communities historically impacted by economic disinvestment and violence. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) will identify R3 areas that qualify for funding, and grants will be awarded by the R3 Board. A 22-member R3 Board will award grants throughout the state, subject to an application process and the Government Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA); the R3 Board shall be chaired by the Lt. Governor.

## SOCIAL EQUITY

The Act provides for a social equity program to establish a legal cannabis industry that is accessible to those most adversely impacted by the enforcement of drug-related laws in this state, including cannabis-related laws. Qualifying social equity applicants may be awarded financial assistance and incentives if they are interested in establishing cannabis related businesses.

## DECRIMINALIZATION AND EXPUNGEMENTS

A significant portion of the Act addresses the decriminalization of cannabis through mandatory and discretionary expungements of criminal convictions relating to non-violent cannabis offenses.

## STATE REVENUE

State revenues derived from the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act will be deposited into the Cannabis Regulation Fund. The funds will be distributed to multiple state agencies for implementation of the Act. The legalization of adult cannabis also includes a new source of Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) dollars. A portion of the Cannabis Regulation Fund revenues (8% of deposits) will go to local governments, through LGDF, which will be used to fund crime prevention programs, training and interdiction efforts. The Cannabis Regulation Fund is derived from moneys collected from state taxes, license fees and other amounts required to be transferred into the Fund.

