

Cannabis Control Board FY24 BAA request

House Appropriations
Thursday, January 11, 2024

Introduction

2021

Board members seated; Advisory Committee convened; 157 public meetings held; rules pre-filed.

(4 staff authorized)

2022

CCB assumes jurisdiction over Medical Cannabis Program; rules adopted; legislature transfers hemp program to CCB; first phase of licensing portal built; first cannabis licenses issued; retail market opens.

(4 staff transferred to CCB and 12 additional staff authorized)

2023

- Legislature authorizes one additional license type and a quality control laboratory
- Product registration and inventory tracking phases of licensing portal built
- Rules amended
- 550 cannabis establishment licenses and 863 employee ID cards issued
- Over 1,000 site visits conducted
- 3,808 unique products registered

(3 additional staff authorized)

Organizational Structure

The Cannabis Control Board Team – 3 Board members, 23 staff

Executive Team and Business Office

Executive Director
Brynn Hare

Director of Operations
Olga Fitch

General Counsel
Gabe Gilman

Education & Outreach Manager
(vacant)

Finance Manager
Karen Schifferle

Data Analyst
(vacant)

Compliance Team

Interim Compliance Director
Andy Chevrefils

Compliance Agents
Christine Motyka
Denise McCarty
Lawrence "Chipper" Sullivan
Michael DiTomasso
Duane Tomlin
(vacant)

Licensing Team

Director
Kimberly Lashua

Deputy Director
Melissa Andersen

Licensing Agents
Heather Munzberg-Edson
Dominique Fisk
Kelsi Alger

Medical Program
Isabel Senter
Preya Holland

Quality Control Lab

Director
(vacant)

Chemists
(vacant)
(vacant)

Expenses covered by FY24 BAA request

- Medical cannabis program database contract extension (\$55,120)
- Fee for spaces (\$43,800)
 - Rent and utilities for larger office space to accommodate full team
 - Cannabis Quality Control Laboratory lease
- Additional cost of lab equipment (\$125,000)
- Phase II of licensing system development (\$250,000)
 - Enhancements to existing software to include complaint, investigation, and enforcement action tracking and appeals docketing
 - Medical cannabis program built-out
 - Development of public-facing licensing and product registration database

Funding and revenue projections

- Effective in FY24, 7 V.S.A. § 845 provides that the portion of the excise tax not allocated to prevention programming will first flow to the Cannabis Regulation Fund to cover the cost of administering the adult-use and medical cannabis programs. The remaining revenue is transferred to the General Fund.
- Total fees collected so far is approximately \$3.75M, which reflects just under 2 years of revenue collected from license fees and administrative penalties. This amount is close to our fee revenue projections for FY25, and reflects the strong market participation we've experienced so far.
- The total excise tax revenue the state collected in the first year of the cannabis market opening was \$13.9M, right in line with the CCB's initial projections.