Act No. 176 (S.278). An act relating to cannabis

Subjects: Cannabis; Cannabis Control Board; cannabis establishments; cannabis possession; cannabis event permit pilot program; cannabis cultivator cooperatives; Commercial Cannabis Compact; rental agreements; excise tax; fees; licenses

This act increases the amount of cannabis or the equivalent in cannabis products that a cannabis retailer may provide in a single transaction from one ounce to two ounces and makes corresponding increases to certain penalties applicable to cannabis possession and cultivation.

This act establishes a two-year event permit pilot program allowing the Cannabis Control Board (CCB) to issue not more than 10 permits annually to licensed cannabis retail establishments for sale-only public events. This act sets forth the eligibility requirements to apply for a permit and provides that the CCB shall adopt procedures and initiate rulemaking to govern the pilot program. The CCB shall submit a report to the General Assembly concerning the event permit pilot program, including any recommended statutory changes and whether the program should be continued.

This act reduces the annual licensing fees for outdoor cultivators and provides that employee licenses shall be effective for two years, effective July 1, 2027. This act provides that the CCB shall pay local license fees to the municipality for which the fees were collected on an annual, rather than a quarterly, basis. This act provides that the CCB may enforce a final administrative penalty by filing a civil collection action in Superior Court and eliminates references to integrated licenses. This act modifies the definition of adjusted gross income for purposes of the property tax credit to include any federal deduction or credit that a claimant would have been allowed for the cultivation, testing, processing, or sale of cannabis or cannabis products under federal law. This section takes effect retroactively to January 1, 2025, and applies to property tax credit claims filed after January 1, 2026. The Commissioner of Taxes may provide tax records to the CCB for purposes of administering the cannabis excise tax.

This act allows licensed cannabis cultivators to form cannabis cultivator cooperatives. To prepare for the possibility of regional or interstate cannabis markets, this act authorizes the Governor to form agreements with other states that have commercial cannabis markets if one of the listed contingencies occurs and a contracting state meets the listed requirements.

Finally, this act does not allow rental agreements to prohibit the possession or use of cannabis or cannabis products within a dwelling unit but does allow rental agreements to prohibit the use of lighted cannabis or cannabis products intended for inhalation within the rental premises.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 18, 2026