

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 25 entitled “An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis regulation
4 procedures” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

6 First: By striking Sec. 1 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the
7 following:

8 Sec. 1. 7 V.S.A. § 863 is amended to read:

9 § 863. REGULATION BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

10 (a)(1) Prior to a cannabis retailer or the retail portion of an integrated
11 licensee operating within a municipality, the municipality shall affirmatively
12 permit the operation of such cannabis establishments by majority vote of those
13 present and voting by Australian ballot at an annual or special meeting warned
14 for that purpose. A municipality may place retailers or integrated licensees, or
15 both, on the ballot for approval.

16 * * *

17 (3) On March 8, 2023, any municipality that fails to vote on the question
18 of permitting the operation of cannabis establishments pursuant to subdivision
19 (1) of this subsection shall be deemed to permit the operation of both cannabis
20 retailers and integrated licensees.

21 * * *

1 Second: By adding a new Sec. 2 to read as follows and renumbering the
2 remaining sections to be numerically correct:

3 Sec. 2. 7 V.S.A. § 843 is amended to read:

4 § 843. CANNABIS CONTROL BOARD; DUTIES; MEMBERS

5 * * *

6 (c) Membership.

7 * * *

8 (4) A member may be removed only for cause by either the remaining
9 members of the Commission or a two-thirds vote of the advisory committee in
10 accordance with the Vermont Administrative Procedure Act.

11 * * *

12 (h) Advisory committee.

13 (1) There is an advisory committee established within the Board that
14 shall be composed of members with expertise and knowledge relevant to the
15 Board's mission. The Board shall collaborate with the advisory committee on
16 recommendations to the General Assembly. The advisory committee shall be
17 composed of the following ~~12~~ 13 members:

18 (A) one member with an expertise in public health appointed by the
19 Governor;

20 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or designee;

1 (C) one member with an expertise in laboratory science or toxicology
2 appointed by the Governor;

3 (D) one member with an expertise in systemic social justice and
4 equity issues appointed by the Speaker of the House;

5 (E) one member with an expertise in women and minority-owned
6 business ownership appointed by the Speaker of the House;

7 (F) one member with an expertise in substance misuse prevention
8 appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees;

9 (G) one member with an expertise in the cannabis industry appointed
10 by the Senate Committee on Committees;

11 (H) one member with an expertise in business management or
12 regulatory compliance appointed by the Treasurer;

13 (I) one member with an expertise in municipal issues appointed by the
14 Treasurer;

15 (J) one member with an expertise in public safety appointed by the
16 Attorney General;

17 (K) one member with an expertise in criminal justice reform
18 appointed by the Attorney General; ~~and~~

19 (L) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee; and

20 (M) one member appointed by the Vermont Cannabis Trade
21 Association.

1 (2) Initial appointments to the advisory committee as provided in
2 subdivision (1) of this subsection (h) shall be made on or before ~~May 1, 2021~~
3 April 1, 2021 and the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall
4 convene the first meeting on or before April 15, 2021.

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(Committee vote: _____)

Senator _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE