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**Act No. 166 (H.612). An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments**

**Subjects: Cannabis**

This act makes a number of changes to the regulation of adult-use and medical cannabis as managed by the Cannabis Control Board.

The act narrows the definition of “hemp-infused products” in Title 6 to exclude products infused with intoxicating quantities of THC or other synthetic cannabinoids. The General Assembly previously granted authority to the Board to regulate such products and this is a conforming change related to that authority.

The act permits a cannabis retailer to apply for a medical endorsement to allow the retailer to serve medical patients and their caregivers and directs the Board to adopt rules regarding the medical endorsement.

The act adds ulcerative colitis to the list of qualifying medical conditions for purposes of the Medical Cannabis Registry and extends the renewal period from one year to three years for patients with chronic pain. The act requires that patients who are under 21 years of age must have at least a three-month prior relationship with their health care provider, in the course of which the health care professional has completed a full assessment of the applicant’s medical history and current medical condition, including a personal physical examination. There are certain circumstances in which the three-month relationship can be waived.

The act directs the Cannabis Control Board to work in consultation with the Vermont Department of Health, the Vermont Medical Society, the Green Mountain Patients’ Alliance, the Cannabis Retailers Association of Vermont, and other interested parties to assess the efficacy of the Medical Cannabis Program in serving registered and prospective patients. The Board must provide recommendations regarding the Medical Cannabis Registry to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and the House Committee on Human Services on or before November 15, 2024.

The act allows outdoor cultivators to use existing farm buildings for basic cannabis drying and storage without having to bring them up to the full spectrum of commercial building codes under Title 20.

The act transfers \$500,000.00 from the Cannabis Regulation Fund to the Cannabis Business Development Fund and then from the Cannabis Business Development Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to fund technical assistance and provide loans and grants pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 987.

The act directs the Cannabis Control Board to work in consultation with the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Vermont Land Access and Opportunity Board, the Vermont Racial Justice Alliance, the Office of Racial Equity, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for the purpose of making recommendations to

the General Assembly regarding a percentage of cannabis excise tax monies that should be appropriated to the Cannabis Business Development Fund for uses as provided pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 987. The Cannabis Control Board will incorporate the recommendations into the Cannabis Social Equity Programs report required pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 989.

The act permits a municipality, after consultation with the municipal cannabis control commission, if one exists, to adopt a bylaw identifying cannabis cultivation districts where the outdoor cultivation of cannabis is preferred within the municipality. Setbacks for cultivation are established for licensees within a cannabis cultivation district, outside of a cannabis cultivation district, and in municipalities that do not have zoning.

On or before December 15, 2024, the Cannabis Control Board is required to submit to the Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committees on Government Operations and Military Affairs and on Commerce and Economic Development a report regarding the siting and licensing of outdoor cannabis cultivation.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 10, 2024