

VCAF

VERMONT CANNABIS ACTION FUND

The Vermont Cannabis Action Fund is a coalition of licensed cannabis retailers, manufacturers, cultivators, testing laboratories, and medical dispensaries, joined for the purpose of addressing five areas of Vermont's cannabis laws that pose unnecessary roadblocks to the cannabis industry's success.

1. Lift the 30% and 60% Potency Caps

Of the 24 states that have legalized cannabis, only Vermont and Connecticut impose statutory limits on the potency of flower and concentrates. These arbitrary caps do not provide any public health benefits, drive consumers to neighboring states or the unregulated "legacy" market, and endanger the health and safety of cannabis users. *There are no known safe diluents for inhalable cannabis concentrates.* VCAF supports Section 3 of H.612.

2. Increase Maximum Edible Portions to 10mg THC

Edibles account for nearly 20% of the overall cannabis market. Only Vermont, Connecticut, and Massachusetts limit edibles to 5mg of THC per serving; all other states cap servings at 10mg. With Upstate NY stores now open, Vermonters seeking 10mg edibles have safe and legal access a short drive away. Increasing the limit to 10mg will support local businesses and the tax base.

3. End the *de facto* Advertising Ban

Existing restrictions on cannabis "advertising" effectively operate as a muzzle on Constitutionally protected speech, far beyond conventional notions of true advertising. The scope of the restrictions imposed by 7 VSA §864, the 85% audience composition rule, and the requirement that virtually all statements be submitted to the CCB for prior approval combine to violate Article 13 of the Vermont Constitution and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. VCAF supports amending the law to provide for reasonable, enforceable advertising restrictions.

4. Create Events and Consumption Licenses

VCAF supports creating new licenses that allow for responsible on-site consumption at private and public events, in collaboration with appropriate stakeholders in the lodging, venue, and events planning industries, as well as at stand-alone consumption lounges/cafes.

5. Tax Parity Between "Medical" and "Recreational" Dispensaries

Current law exempts cannabis purchased by registered patients from the 20%-21% cannabis tax purchased at medical dispensaries, but imposes the tax when those identical products are purchased by those same patients at licensed retailers. VCAF opposes Section 10 of H.612 as presently drafted, and encourages the legislature to instead exempt purchases by medical patients *regardless of the type of licensed store they choose to shop at.*