

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 specific areas of Vermont's cannabis laws that pose a threat to the success of the regulated market as a whole.

1. Temporary Pause of New Retail Licensing

Since the Legislature passed Act 166 requiring the CCB to based retail distribution on “market needs”, there has been a 38% increase in licensed retail locations, but statewide sales have grown by only 6% year-over-year. A stagnant market with ever-increasing fragmentation and rapidly falling prices poses an urgent threat not only to every type of licensed business, but to public safety, consumer safety, and the sustainability of Vermont's small-business-centric model. **We call for a 2-year moratorium on new retail licenses**, while allowing existing retailers to move from areas of high density to areas of lower density to fill any remaining underserved areas, if any.

2. Lift the Potency Caps

Only Vermont and Connecticut impose statutory limits on the potency of flower and concentrates, and only Vermont, Connecticut and Massachusetts limit edibles to 5mg per serving (all other states cap servings at 10mg). 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.

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. VCAF supports amending the law to provide for reasonable, enforceable advertising restrictions that allow cannabis businesses to responsibly communicate with existing and new adult customers.

4. Create Events and Consumption Licenses

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

5. Ease the Tax Burden

The combined 20-21% tax rate on cannabis drives consumers to the illicit market and online sellers of so-called “hemp-derived” THC, suppressing the regulated market. VCAF supports a downward adjustment to this onerous rate.

Cannabis Retail Density - State by State Comparison

Rank	State	Population	Retailers	Residents / Store
1	Rhode Island	1,096,000	7	156,571
2	Connecticut	3,617,000	29	124,724
3	Ohio	11,790,000	128	92,109
4	Delaware	1,032,000	15	68,800
5	New York	19,570,000	292	67,021
6	Maryland	6,180,000	101	61,188
7	Illinois	12,550,000	240	52,292
8	Arizona	7,431,000	170	43,712
9	New Jersey	9,291,000	296	31,389
10	California	38,970,000	1,244	31,326
11	Missouri	6,196,000	260	23,831
12	Nevada	3,194,000	169	18,899
13	Massachusetts	7,001,000	436	16,057
14	Washington	7,813,000	600	13,022
15	Michigan	10,040,000	994	10,101
16	Colorado	5,878,000	659	8,920
17	Maine	1,396,000	198	7,051
18	Vermont	647,464	114	5,680
19	Oregon	4,233,000	824	5,137
20	Alaska	733,406	188	3,901
21	Montana	1,133,000	426	2,660
22	Oklahoma*	4,054,000	2,387	1,698
			Average:	38,459
			VT to Average:	677%

* medical only

Cannabis Retail Density - State by State Comparison with Tourism

Rank	State	Population	Visitor Volume 2023	Licensed Retailers	Resident + Visitors
1	Rhode Island	1,096,000	28,400,000	7	4,213,714
2	Connecticut	3,617,000	67,900,000	29	2,466,103
3	Delaware	1,032,000	28,300,000	15	1,955,467
4	Ohio	11,790,000	238,000,000	128	1,951,484
5	New York	19,570,000	306,300,000	292	1,115,993
6	Illinois	12,550,000	112,400,000	240	520,625
7	Maryland	6,180,000	45,100,000	101	507,723
8	New Jersey	9,291,000	120,500,000	296	438,483
9	Arizona	7,431,000	45,200,000	170	309,594
10	Nevada	3,194,000	41,000,000	169	261,503
11	California	38,970,000	263,890,000	1,244	243,457
12	Missouri	6,196,000	41,900,000	260	184,985
13	Washington	7,813,000	102,200,000	600	183,355
14	Colorado	5,878,000	93,300,000	659	150,498
15	Vermont	647,464	15,800,000	114	144,276
16	Michigan	10,040,000	128,300,000	994	139,175
17	Massachusetts	7,001,000	52,300,000	436	136,011
18	Maine	1,396,000	15,300,000	198	84,323
19	Oregon*	4,233,000	29,900,000	824	41,424
20	Montana	1,133,000	12,500,000	426	32,002
21	Alaska	733,406	3,050,000	188	20,125
22	Oklahoma**	4,054,000	24,100,000	2,387	11,795
				Average:	686,914
				VT to Average:	476%

* Likely undercount: overnight visitors only, excludes day-trips

** Medical dispensaries only