

---

# Cannabis Catering Permits

Prepared by Eli Harrington for the House Committee on  
Government Operations and Military Affairs.  
January 29, 2025

---

—

**Legally purchase cannabis:  
EVERYWHERE**

**Legally consume cannabis:  
NOWHERE**

---

**Instead of a vacuum of uncertainty and illegality, Vermont must define the legal consumption of cannabis and the required conditions.**

---

# Proposed Consumption Requirements:

- Defined Time
- Legal sale of a regulated product.
- Security for employee and customer.
- Confirmation of 21+ age.
- Trained and certified server.
- Transportation or  
—Lodging?

---

# The Solution: Temporary cannabis catering permit, similar to alcohol

A “beer garden for weed” is a logical and safe example to consider.

The time, location, and license-holders are all listed on the permit and must be approved by the local municipality, **providing a local control.**

The hosting municipality would also be entitled to receive a portion of the fee for the permit.

Licensed Vermont cannabis products are the only cannabis products allowed to be sold or consumed at the event and must be sold by a licensed retailer.

---

# Alcohol Event Permit Example

Vermont presently issues various kinds of temporary consumption permits, including the festival, special event, and educational sampling permits.

These permits are inexpensive and require a simple application, which must be approved by a local licensing authority (town clerk).

The same licensees who are presently entrusted by the state of Vermont to manufacture and distribute alcohol could be entrusted to setup and check IDs at a cannabis consumption space, similar to a ‘beer garden’.

Permit Name	Purpose	Who May Apply	Location Event May Take Place	Length of Permit	Fee	Number Allowed Per Year Per Applicant	Requires Pre-Approval of Local Licensing Authority (yes/no)	# of Days Prior to Event Application Must be Received by DLC
<b>Festival Permit</b>	Allows holder to conduct an event at which malt and/or vinous beverages are sold by the glass to the public	Any person	May not take place inside any other licensed premise	4 consecutive days	\$115	4 per yr	Yes	15 days
<b>Special Event Permit</b>	Allows holder to attend an event open to the public to taste ( 2 oz for malt and vinous with a total of 8 oz or 1/4 oz of spirits with a total of 1 oz) and sell by glass or unopened bottle spirits, malt or vinous beverages made by holder	Only manufacturers or rectifiers	No specific location	Duration of event or 4 days, whichever is shorter	\$35	104 per yr (each manufacturer can be listed under 1 event permit but each attendance will count toward the total of 104)	Yes	5 days
<b>Educational Sampling Event Permit</b>	Allows holder to conduct an event open to the public (minimum charge of \$5.00 per person entry fee) at which spirits, malt and vinous beverages may be sampled (2 oz per product) for educational purposes	Any person	No specific location	4 consecutive days	\$230	4 per yr	Yes	15 days

# Application for Temporary Alcohol Consumption at Vermont Events

## Required Information:

- + Event Name and Basic Event Details
- + Consumption Rules -- where and how is legal consumption specifically allowed at the event? Licensed retailer.
- + Responsibility -- who is legally responsible for ensuring consumption is legal? Licensed retailer.
- + Control of Sales -- Licensed retailer.



## APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT

Application Fee: \$35.00

Manufacturer's License Number \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Licensee Name \_\_\_\_\_

Doing Business As \_\_\_\_\_ Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe the special event: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Location (specify defined area, include address of event): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How will attendees pay for alcohol at your event? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What size container will the event use? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Will there be any limits on the number of purchases? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Date of event: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Hours of operation: Beginning \_\_\_\_\_ Ending \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(manufacturer)

Please check one: \_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DISAPPROVED

—

**“How would this work within the specific guidelines for cannabis?”**



---

**Licensed retailers are currently meeting all training, sales, and inventory tracking requirements.**

---

---

**The people presently selling cannabis in a fixed location are immediately qualified to sell cannabis in a different location – IF the location and event setting meet security requirements:**

- Double entrance with an ID requirement to enter sales/consumption area
  - Siting of sales/consumption area to ensure adequate proximity from smell nuisance and/or underage participants (100yd buffer?)
  - Licensed security present to perform ID check and assist with enforcement
  - Security camera to document sales location
  - Limited inventory at event location. Possibly require pre-purchase of inventory
  - If sales happening on-site, require cashless sales at event
-

---

**Short Answer:**  
**Keep it simple and do it  
exactly like alcohol.**

---

# Sample Cannabis Event Permit

Permit Name	Purpose	Who May Apply	Location Event May Take Place	Length of Permit	Fee	Number Allowed Per Year, Per Applicant	Require Pre-Approval of Local Licensing Authority?	# of Days Prior to Event Application must be Received by CCB
Cannabis Event Permit	Allows holder to conduct an event at which legally-procured cannabis may be consumed in designated areas by 21+ adults.	Any licensed manufacturer and/or licensee currently allowed to manufacture or distribute alcohol in Vermont.	Cannabis consumption may not take place in same physical location where alcohol is consumed <b>1</b>	Duration of event, or two consecutive days, whichever is shorter.	\$70 <b>2</b>	100 per year, per applicant	Yes	15

**1** By maintaining the ‘two hand’ rule and eliminating cannabis and alcohol from being consumed at the same time, you reduce risk of multi-substance intoxication.

**2** This \$70 charge is twice as expensive than a special events permit for alcohol; since there are not legal sales of cannabis, a higher charge similar to a tasting permit for a brewers festival would not be justified.

## Cannabis Retail

*Complete application defining  
where, when, and by whom  
cannabis will be sold and  
consumed at the event.*

## Local Government

*Any additional local zoning  
issues are clarified at this stage  
to receive town approval.*

*Town clerk approves permit  
and collects payment, sends %  
of permit revenue to DLC.*

## Event Host

*Event organizer collaborates  
with cannabis retail to define  
consumption location  
parameters on the permit  
application.*

## State Agency (CCB or DLL?)

*State receives permit and % of  
permit revenue from municipal  
government; enforces permit as  
necessary*

—

**Goal: Create a safe space  
for legal cannabis  
consumption in Vermont**

# Summary:

*Legal consumption requires legal sales of regulated products.*

**We have legal sales and regulated products.**

*Legal sales have security, training, and tracking requirements.*

**Dispensaries already have security protocols, trained staff, taxed sales, and tracked inventory.**

*Consumption can't just happen anywhere.*

A local permit approval will shape the location(s) and condition(s) that work best for each municipality and event.

*What's wrong with the status quo?*

**Every Vermont business that serves 21+ adults is presently exposed by the lack of definition of legal consumption.**

**Licensed cannabis establishments - not illegal dealers - should serve event consumers regulated products.**