



Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

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A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend, on a temporary basis, the Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative of 1999 to clarify which Advisory Neighborhood Commissions have standing to file a protest and allow the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board to extend the public comment period for up to 30-calendar days, to establish the requirement that all retailers be located more than 400 feet from each other, to clarify that cultivation center, retailer, and internet retailer licenses issued to unlicensed establishments count toward the overall 50% set aside requirement for social equity applicants, and to clarify the process for unlicensed establishments being issued a medical cannabis cultivation center, retailer, or internet retailer license.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Medical Cannabis License Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2024”.

Sec. 2. The Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative of 1999, effective February 25, 2010 (D.C. Law 13-315; D.C. Official Code § 7-1671.01 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 6(b)(18) (D.C. Official Code § 7-1671.05(b)(18)) is amended as follows:

(1) Subparagraph (A) is amended by striking the phrase “all Advisory

36 Neighborhood Commissions in the affected ward” and inserting the phrase "any Advisory  
37 Neighborhood Commission within 600 feet of where the establishment is or will be located  
38 (“affected ANC”)” in its place.

39 (2) A new subparagraph (E) is added to read as follows:

40 “(E) The ABC Board may extend the public comment period set forth in paragraph  
41 (A) of this subsection by an additional 30-calendar days in response to a written request  
42 submitted by either an affected ANC or the applicant.”.

43 (b) Section 7 (D.C. Official Code § 7-1671.06) is amended by adding a new subsection  
44 (q-1) to read as follows:

45 “(q-1)(1) No retailer license shall be issued for a facility that is located within 400  
46 feet from another facility operating under a retailer license.

47 “(2) In determining whether a retailer application is eligible to be  
48 approved, the ABC Board shall ensure that the retailer application will not be located within 400  
49 feet of a previously submitted retailer application filed timely by another applicant.

50 “(3) ABCA shall proceed forward with the application filed by the facility  
51 that is first in time. If the application is subsequently denied, ABCA shall proceed with the  
52 application that is second in time, third in time, et cetera, until an application is approved.”.

53 (c) Section 7a(e)(1) (D.C. Official Code § 7-1671.06a(e)(1)) is amended to read as  
54 follows:

55 “(e)(1) Cultivation Center, Retailer, and Internet Retailer licenses issued under this  
56 section shall count toward the 50% set aside requirement for social equity applicants set forth in  
57 section 7(h).”.

58 (d) Section 7b(b) (D.C. Official Code § 7-1671.06b(b)) is amended as follows:

59 (1) Paragraph (1) is amended by striking the word “immediately” and inserting  
60 the phrase “once its license is issued by ABCA” in its place.

61 (2) Paragraph (2) is redesignated as paragraph (3).

62 (3) A new paragraph (2) is added to read as follows:

63 “(2)(A) An unlicensed establishment that is approved for a cultivation center,  
64 retailer, or internet retailer license shall obtain issuance of its license by the later date of either  
65 September 30, 2024, or within 180 days of Board approval or have its Board approval rescinded.

66 “(B)(i) An unlicensed establishment that temporarily discontinues operations after  
67 Board approval that is not involved in unlicensed activity may request that the Board extend the  
68 deadline set forth in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph by one additional 180-day period to  
69 allow the applicant to take steps to resume business operations at the applicant’s proposed  
70 location.

71 “(ii) The Board shall approve the applicant’s extension request provided  
72 that the applicant can demonstrate to the Board that the applicant is making reasonable progress  
73 to resume business operations at the proposed location.

74 “(C) Notwithstanding paragraph A of this subsection, a cultivation center, retailer,  
75 or internet retailer applicant shall cease any unlicensed activity once its license is issued by  
76 ABCA.”.

77 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

78 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact  
79 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved  
80 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

81 Sec. 4. Effective date.

82           (a) This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by  
83 the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review  
84 as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
85 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1), and publication in the District of  
86 Columbia register.

87           (b) This act shall expire after 225 days of its having taken effect.