


**Council of the District of Columbia  
COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
MEMORANDUM**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004

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**TO:** Chairperson Phil Mendelson  
**FROM:** Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie   
**RE:** Request to Agendize Measures for the March 4, 2025, Legislative Meeting  
**DATE:** February 27, 2025

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I write to request that the following measures be placed on the agenda for the March 4, 2025, Legislative Meeting:

Emergency Legislation at the Request of the Mayor

- **Unlicensed Establishment Enforcement Clarification Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2025**
- **Unlicensed Establishment Enforcement Clarification Emergency Amendment Act of 2025**
- **Unlicensed Establishment Enforcement Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2025**

On February 11, 2025, the Committee of the Whole and the Committee on Business and Economic Development held a joint public roundtable on The State of the Medical Cannabis Industry and Enforcement Against Illegal Cannabis Shops. As of February 19, 2025, the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA) and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) have summarily closed and padlocked thirty-one unlicensed cannabis establishments. However, at the joint public roundtable, it was established that additional enforcement measures are needed to further assist with the closure of unlicensed establishments operating in the District at a quicker pace.

The emergency legislation seeks to level the playing field between licensed and unlicensed cannabis businesses by clarifying that all unlicensed cannabis businesses that applied during the statutory open application period that still remain unlicensed and operating illegally are subject to enforcement and summary closure beginning on April 1, 2025. The emergency legislation also clarifies that unlicensed establishments that applied during the statutory open application period are subject to enforcement and summary closure prior to April 1, 2025 if they engage in the sale of Schedule I substances and products containing Schedule I substances such as psychedelic mushrooms and Dimethyltryptamine.

The emergency legislation also further promotes public health and safety in three ways. First, the emergency legislation allows the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board (Board) to summarily close and padlock, through ABCA and MPD, unlicensed businesses that stop selling cannabis and cannabis products but continue to illegally sell Schedule I substances and products containing Schedule I substances. Second, the emergency legislation allows the Board to issue a notice of summary closure to the property owner in the event that the unlicensed establishment presenting the imminent danger to the health or safety of the public has vacated the premises. And third, the emergency legislation allows the Board to summarily close a licensed establishment that engages in illegal activity that presents an imminent danger to the health and safety of the public after being licensed by the Board.

The draft Executive measures are attached. Feel free to contact Doni Crawford, Committee Director, at [dcrawford@dccouncil.gov](mailto:dcrawford@dccouncil.gov), with any questions.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

cc: Members, Council of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Secretary  
Office of the General Counsel  
Office of the Budget Director