

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION (INCLUDES THE OFFICE OF THE  
HEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSIONER)**

**Title of Rule:** Rhode Island Industrial Hemp Program

**Rule Identifier:** 230-RICR-80-10-1

**Rulemaking Action:** Direct Final Amendment

**Important Dates:**

Date of Public Notice: May 12, 2022

End of Public Comment: June 11, 2022

**Rulemaking Authority:**

R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 2-26-1

et seq.

**Summary of Rulemaking Action:**

The purpose of this Part is to describe the licensing and regulation of industrial hemp growth, production, distribution and retail sales as an agricultural product as provided for in R.I. Gen. Laws § 2-26-4 and AIA 2018, § 297 as it pertains to the hemp growers, handlers, retailers and distributors and the employees of each, as participants in the state's Industrial Hemp Program.

The Department is proposing to delete § 1.11(J)(5) wherein it prohibits a retailer from selling products intended for aerosolization or vaporization. The final version of the 2021 amendments (effective 10/10/21) deleted a similar and symbiotic provision at § 1.11(H)(1)(f), as represented in the last Concise Explanatory Statement. Vape delivery systems and their associated cartridges/products are already regulated pursuant to 216-RICR-50-15-6, Licensing of Electronic Nicotine-Delivery System Distributors and Retailers, administered by RIDOH. § 1.11 (J)(5) should have been deleted in conjunction with § 1.11(H)((1)(f) in the 2021 proposed amendments. This rulemaking corrects that oversight.

The Department does not expect these proposed amendments to be controversial. The proposed amendment will take effect thirty (30) days after publication if no objection is received.

The Agency does not expect this filing to be controversial and therefore, a public hearing will not be held.

**Additional Information and Public Comments:**

If no formal objection is received on or before June 11, 2022, the Department of Business Regulation (includes the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner) will file the Amendment and the Final Rule will take effect on this date.

Objections should be addressed to:

Diane Paravisini

Department of Business Regulation (includes the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner)

1511 Pontiac Avenue, Building 68-1

Cranston, RI 02920

diane.paravisini@dbr.ri.gov

**Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:**

There are no costs associated with this amendment. The benefits of this amendment are a reduction in confusion for retailers and businesses that sell CBD. In the development of the proposed amendment consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches; (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (3) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.