

Concise Explanatory Statement

Rhode Island Government Register

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.6, following is a concise explanatory statement:

AGENCY: Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation

RULE IDENTIFIER: 230-RICR-80-10-1

REGULATION TITLE: **Rhode Island Industrial Hemp Program**

RULEMAKING ACTION: Full rulemaking, Repeal

COMMENT PERIOD: January 28, 2026, to February 27, 2026

A. Statement of Purpose of the Amendments

Effective June 29, 2025, pursuant to 2025 Public Law, Chapter 278, Art. 3, § 1, all powers, duties and responsibilities of the Department of Business Regulation (“Department”) with respect to the regulation, administration and enforcement of the Hemp Growth Act, R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 2-26, were transferred to the Cannabis Control Commission (“CCC”).

The CCC’s rules and regulations for the Rhode Island Industrial Hemp Program, 560-RICR-10-20-1, were first enacted as an emergency rule on July 21, 2025, and were adopted in full, effective December 8, 2025. Accordingly, the Department is proposing to repeal this regulation because the Hemp Growth Act is no longer under the Department’s jurisdiction.

B. Summary of the Regulatory Analysis

The Department is repealing a regulation that was issued pursuant to statutory enactments that are no longer within the jurisdictional purview of the Department. This repeal prevents confusion on which regulations are in effect for the regulated hemp industry in RI.

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.

C. No Comments Received/No Post-Comment Changes

No comments were received. No changes were made. The final rule will be the same as proposed, which was the repeal of this regulation in its entirety.