

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: Proposed Repeal

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: January 28, 2026

End of Public Comment: February 27, 2026

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 2-26-1

et seq.

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

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.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed repeal until February 27, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Amy Stewart

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

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Cranston, RI 02920

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In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.8, an oral hearing will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, by a governmental agency or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within ten (10) days of the publication of this notice.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

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.

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