

RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION

Title of Rule: Rhode Island Industrial Hemp Program

Rule Identifier: 560-RICR-10-20-1

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: September 19, 2025

End of Public Comment: October 20, 2025

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws § 2-26

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The purpose of this rule is to describe the licensing and regulation requirements of industrial hemp growth, production, distribution and retail sales as provided for in the Hemp Growth Act, R.I. General Laws Chapter 2-26. In accordance with amendments made to the Hemp Growth Act, as amended by H5076 effective July 1, 2025, regulatory authority over the state's industrial hemp program has transferred from the Department of Business Regulation ("DBR") to the Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission ("Commission"). As a result of the legislative amendment, which did not contain any transitional time period between DBR and the Commission, upon enactment the DBR regulations governing the Industrial Hemp Program, 230-RICR-80-10-1, were rendered unenforceable by DBR and the Commission was required to immediately promulgate its own regulations to ensure a regulatory framework was in place for existing licensees and to maintain public safety.

As a result, the Commission immediately promulgated the existing DBR regulations under the Commission's regulatory title as an emergency rule, with only minimal changes made to the text of the regulations to effectuate the aforementioned transition of authority between DBR and the Commission. The enacted emergency rule allowed the Commission to transition the existing hemp program—which, among other things, oversees the sale of intoxicating hemp products—to the Commission's jurisdiction, maintain continuity for existing licensees and consumers, ensure there was no lapse in enforcement, and mitigate public safety concerns while ensuring the maintenance of public health.

Through this proposed rulemaking the Commission now seeks to promulgate the content of the existing emergency rule as a proposed final rule, thereby keeping in place the current regulatory structure beyond the 120-day effective period of the emergency rule, which expires on November 18, 2025.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until October 20, 2025 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Kim Ahern, Chair
Cannabis Control Commission
560 Jefferson Boulevard
Suite 200

Warwick, RI 02886
cccinqury@ccc.ri.gov

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:

All industrial hemp licensees and applicants seeking to become licensed must comply with the requirements set forth in this regulation. There are no new costs associated with this proposed regulation that did not already exist previously.

Overall, this regulation implements existing statutory and regulatory requirements and does not impose any additional regulatory burdens or costs for individuals or licensees that are not already in existence.

In the development of the proposed adoption 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.