

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 229  
2 INTRODUCED BY M. HOPKINS, C. FRIEDEL  
3  
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING MARIJUANA LAWS; ALLOWING FOR A  
5 PROBATIONARY LICENSE FOR TESTING LABORATORIES; ~~RESTRICTING THE TRANSPORTATION OF~~  
6 ~~LABORATORY SAMPLES TO TESTING LABORATORIES;~~ ALLOWING FOR A VARIANCE IN THE  
7 MEASUREMENT OF A SINGLE-SERVE EDIBLE MARIJUANA PRODUCT; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 16-  
8 12-104, ~~16-12-206~~, AND 16-12-224, MCA."

9  
10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11  
12 **Section 1.** Section 16-12-104, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"16-12-104. Department responsibilities -- licensure.** (1) The department shall establish and  
14 maintain a registry of persons who receive licenses under this chapter.

15 (2) (a) The department shall issue the following license types to persons who submit applications  
16 meeting the requirements of this chapter:

- 17 (i) cultivator license;
- 18 (ii) manufacturer license;
- 19 (iii) adult-use dispensary license or a medical marijuana dispensary license;
- 20 (iv) testing laboratory license.
- 21 (v) marijuana transporter license.
- 22 (vi) combined-use marijuana license.

23 (b) The department may establish other license types, subtypes, endorsements, and restrictions it  
24 considers necessary for the efficient administration of this chapter.

25 (3) A licensee may not cultivate hemp or engage in hemp manufacturing at a licensed premises.

26 (4) A person licensed to cultivate or manufacture marijuana or marijuana products is subject to the  
27 provisions contained in the Montana Pesticides Act provided for in Title 80, chapter 8.

**Amendment - Reference-white - Requested by: Mike Hopkins - Free Conference Committee on HB 229**

- 2023

68th Legislature 2023

Drafter: Erin Sullivan, 406-444-3594

HB0229.003.002

1 (5) The department shall assess applications for licensure or renewal to determine if an applicant,  
2 controlling beneficial owner, or a person with a financial interest in the applicant meets any of the criteria  
3 established in this chapter for denial of a license.

4 (6) A license issued pursuant to this chapter must be displayed by the licensee as provided for in  
5 rule by the department.

6 (7) (a) ~~The~~ Except as provided in subsection (8), the department shall review the information  
7 contained in an application or renewal submitted pursuant to this chapter and shall approve or deny an  
8 application:

9 (i) within 60 days of receiving the application or renewal and all related application materials from  
10 a former medical marijuana licensee or an existing licensee under this chapter; and

11 (ii) within 120 days of receiving the application and all related application materials from a new  
12 applicant.

13 (b) If the department fails to act on a completed application within the time allowed under  
14 subsection (7)(a), the department shall:

15 (i) reduce the cost of the licensing fee for a new applicant for licensure or endorsement or for a  
16 licensee seeking renewal of a license by 5% each week that the application is pending; and

17 (ii) allow a licensee to continue operation until the department takes final action.

18 (c) The department may not take final action on an application for a license or renewal of a license  
19 until the department has completed a satisfactory inspection as required by this chapter and related  
20 administrative rules.

21 (d) The department shall issue a license or endorsement within 5 days of approving an application  
22 or renewal.

23 (8) (a) The department may issue a probationary license under subsection (2)(a)(iv) only if:

24 (i) an applicant has completed the International Organization for Standardization ~~accreditor initial~~  
25 application for assessment; and

26 (ii) there are no pending corrective actions to obtain International Organization for Standardization  
27 accreditation.

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1            ~~(b)~~ A probationary license is valid for 90-180 days from the date of issue and is not eligible for  
2 ~~renewal~~ MAY BE RENEWED ONE TIME:

3            (I) IF THE APPLICATION IS DENIED AFTER A GOOD FAITH APPLICATION EFFORT; OR

4            (II) IF THE APPLICATION REMAINS PENDING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION  
5 ACCREDITATION.

6            (C) IF AN APPLICANT VOLUNTARILY CLOSES THE APPLICATION PROCESS AFTER RECEIVING A  
7 PROBATIONARY LICENSE, THE APPLICANT MAY NOT RECEIVE A SECOND PROBATIONARY LICENSE FOR 2 YEARS.

8            ~~(8)(9)~~ (a) Review of a rejection of an application or renewal may be conducted as a contested case  
9 hearing before the department's office of dispute resolution pursuant to the provisions of the Montana  
10 Administrative Procedure Act.

11            (b) A person may appeal any decision of the department of revenue concerning the issuance,  
12 rejection, suspension, or revocation of a license provided for by this chapter to the district court in the county in  
13 which the person operates or proposes to operate. If a person operates or seeks to operate in more than one  
14 county, the person may seek judicial review in the district court with jurisdiction over actions arising in any of the  
15 counties where it operates or seeks to operate.

16            (c) An appeal pursuant to subsection ~~(8)(b)~~ (9)(b) must be made by filing a complaint setting forth  
17 the grounds for relief and the nature of relief demanded with the district court within 30 days following receipt of  
18 notice of the department's final decision.

19            ~~(9)(10)~~ Licenses issued under this chapter must be renewed annually.

20            ~~(10)(11)~~ (a) The department shall provide the names and phone numbers of persons licensed under  
21 this chapter and the city, town, or county where licensed premises are located to the public on the department's  
22 website. Except as provided in subsection ~~(10)(b)~~ (11)(b), the department may not disclose the physical  
23 location or address of a marijuana business.

24            (b) The department may share the physical location or address of a marijuana business with  
25 another state agency, political subdivision, and the state fire marshal.

26            ~~(11)(12)~~ The department may not prohibit a cultivator, manufacturer, or adult-use dispensary licensee  
27 operating in compliance with the requirements of this chapter from operating at a shared location with a medical

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1 marijuana dispensary.

2 ~~(12)~~(13) The department may not adopt rules requiring a consumer to provide a licensee with  
3 identifying information other than government-issued identification to determine the consumer's age. A licensee  
4 that scans a person's driver's license using an electronic reader to determine the person's age:

5 (a) may only use data or metadata from the scan determine the person's age;

6 (b) may not transfer or sell that data or metadata to another party; and

7 (c) shall permanently delete any data or metadata from the scan within 180 days, unless otherwise  
8 provided for in this chapter or by the department.

9 ~~(13)~~(14) (a) Except as provided in subsection ~~(13)(b)~~ (14)(b), licenses issued by the department under  
10 this chapter are nontransferable.

11 (b) A licensee may sell its marijuana business, including live plants, inventory, and material assets,  
12 to a person who is licensed by the department under the provisions of this chapter. The department may, in its  
13 discretion, issue a temporary license to the acquiring party to facilitate the transfer of the licensee's marijuana  
14 business.

15 ~~(14)~~(15) A person who is not a controlling beneficial owner in a licensee may not receive or otherwise  
16 obtain an ownership interest in a licensee that results in the person becoming a controlling beneficial owner  
17 unless the licensee notifies, in writing, the department of the proposed transaction and the department  
18 determines that the person qualifies for ownership under the provisions of this chapter."

19

20 **Section 2.** ~~Section 16-12-206, MCA, is amended to read:~~

21 ~~"16-12-206. Testing laboratories—licensing inspections. (1) A testing laboratory may:~~

22 ~~(a) measure the tetrahydrocannabinol, tetrahydrocannabinolic acid, cannabidiol, and cannabidiolic~~  
23 ~~acid content of marijuana and marijuana products; and~~

24 ~~(b) test marijuana and marijuana products for pesticides, solvents, moisture levels, mold, mildew,~~  
25 ~~and other contaminants. A testing laboratory may transport samples to be tested.~~

26 ~~(2) A licensed testing laboratory shall employ a scientific director who is responsible for ensuring~~  
27 ~~the achievement and maintenance of quality standards of practice. A scientific director must have the following~~

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1 ~~minimum qualifications:~~

2 ~~(a) — a doctorate in chemical or biological sciences from a college or university accredited by a~~  
3 ~~national or regional certifying authority and a minimum of 2 years of postdegree laboratory experience; or~~

4 ~~(b) — a master's degree in chemical or biological sciences from a college or university accredited by~~  
5 ~~a national or regional certifying authority and a minimum of 4 years of postdegree laboratory experience.~~

6 ~~(3) — All owners and employees of a testing laboratory shall submit fingerprints to the department to~~  
7 ~~facilitate a fingerprint and background check as set forth in 16-12-129. A testing laboratory may not be owned,~~  
8 ~~operated, or staffed by a person who has been convicted of a felony offense.~~

9 ~~(4) — To qualify for licensure, a testing laboratory shall demonstrate that:~~

10 ~~(a) — staff members are proficient in operation of the laboratory equipment; and~~

11 ~~(b) — the laboratory:~~

12 ~~(i) — maintains the equipment and instrumentation required by rule;~~

13 ~~(ii) — has all equipment and instrumentation necessary to certify results that meet the quality~~

14 ~~assurance testing requirements established by rule, including the ability to certify results at the required level of~~  
15 ~~sensitivity;~~

16 ~~(iii) — meets insurance and bonding requirements established by rule;~~

17 ~~(iv) — has the capacity and ability to serve rural areas of the state; and~~

18 ~~(v) — has passed a proficiency program approved by the state laboratory that demonstrates it is able~~  
19 ~~to meet all testing requirements.~~

20 ~~(5) — Except as provided in 16-12-209, a testing laboratory shall conduct tests of:~~

21 ~~(a) — samples of marijuana and marijuana products submitted by cultivators and manufacturers~~  
22 ~~pursuant to 16-12-209 and related administrative rules prior to sale of the marijuana or marijuana products;~~

23 ~~(b) — samples of marijuana or marijuana products collected by the department during inspections of~~  
24 ~~licensed premises; and~~

25 ~~(c) — samples submitted by consumers or registered cardholders.~~

26 ~~(6) — All samples submitted under subsections SUBSECTION (5)(a) and (5)(b) must be collected by an~~  
27 ~~employee of the testing lab. A COMMERCIAL testing lab may not use a third-party marijuana transporter for~~

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1 ~~samples submitted under subsections (5)(a) and (5)(b)."~~

2

3 **Section 2.** Section 16-12-224, MCA, is amended to read:

4 **"16-12-224. Licensing of dispensaries.** (1) Except as provided in 16-12-201(2), an applicant for a  
5 dispensary license shall demonstrate that the local government approval provisions in 16-12-301 have been  
6 satisfied in the jurisdiction where each proposed dispensary is located if the proposed dispensary would be  
7 located in a county in which the majority of voters voted against approval of Initiative Measure No. 190 in the  
8 November 3, 2020, general election.

9 (2) When evaluating an initial or renewal application, the department shall evaluate each proposed  
10 dispensary for compliance with the provisions of 16-12-207 and 16-12-210.

11 (3) An adult-use dispensary licensee may operate at a shared location with a medical marijuana  
12 dispensary if the adult-use dispensary and medical marijuana dispensary are owned by the same person.

13 (4) A medical marijuana dispensary is authorized to sell exclusively to registered cardholders  
14 marijuana, marijuana products, and live marijuana plants.

15 (5) An adult-use dispensary is authorized to sell marijuana, marijuana products, and live marijuana  
16 plants to consumers or registered cardholders.

17 (6) The department shall charge a dispensary license fee for an initial application and at each  
18 renewal. The dispensary license fee is \$5,000 for each location that a licensee operates as an adult-use  
19 dispensary or a medical marijuana dispensary.

20 (7) The department may adopt rules:

21 (a) for inspection of proposed dispensaries;

22 (b) for investigating owners or applicants for a determination of financial interest; and

23 (c) establishing or limiting the THC content of the marijuana or marijuana products that may be  
24 sold at an adult-use dispensary or medical marijuana dispensary.

25 (8) (a) Marijuana and marijuana products sold at a dispensary are regulated and sold on the basis  
26 of the concentration of THC in the products and not by weight.

27 (b) Except as provided in subsection ~~(8)(e)~~ (8)(d), for purposes of this chapter, a single package is