



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

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H.321 (Act 56) – An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments

As Enacted^{1,2}

Bill Summary

This bill, as proposed, would make amendments to various cannabis regulations and statutory provisions, including:

- Clarifying regulation of hemp and hemp-infused products;
- Adding one member appointed by Migrant Justice to the Land Access and Opportunity Board;
- Requiring the Cannabis Control Board to submit a report to the General Assembly on cannabis fees and whether to allocate a portion of the cannabis excise tax to specific uses; and
- Clarifying the definition of other tobacco products and new smokeless tobacco to include products made from either natural or synthetic nicotine.

Fiscal Impacts

The following provisions of the bill have a fiscal impact, though the overall impact of the bill is minimal:

Section 2b: Land Access and Opportunity Board

Section 2b would add a member appointed by Migrant Justice to the Land Access and Opportunity Board. According to 10 V.S.A. § 325u(d), the additional member would be entitled to per diem compensation and expense reimbursement pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for meetings. This will represent a nominal additional cost to the monies appropriated to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) for the support and administration of the Land Access and Opportunity Board.

Section 12a: Cannabis Control Board Report on Fees and Appropriations

Section 12a would require the Cannabis Control Board to submit a report to legislative committees on or before November 15, 2025 that includes the following information:

- a) A summary of all cannabis fees in effect for fiscal year 2026, including the amounts of revenue derived

¹ The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations.

² The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be pulled up through a bill number search on the JFO page.

- from each fee in fiscal year 2025;
- b) A projection of the fee revenues in fiscal year 2026;
- c) Any available information regarding comparable fees in other jurisdictions;
- d) Any policies or trends that might affect the viability of the fee amount; and
- e) A recommendation regarding how the cannabis establishment fee schedule as set forth in 7 V.S.A. § 910 may be adjusted to better promote the intent of the General Assembly to encourage participation in the regulated cannabis market by small local farmers and social equity applicants.

As part of the report, the Board shall recommend whether a portion of the cannabis excise tax should be allocated to the Cannabis Business Development Fund for uses as provided pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 918 and the Vermont Land Access and Opportunity Board to fulfill the duties of the Board.

The extent to which the General Assembly might allocate cannabis excise tax revenue to specific uses in the future would reduce the amount of revenue available to the General Fund each fiscal year to support the broader State budget.