

up to 6 recommendations from associations representing the interests of the adult use cannabis industry;

C. Two members who are registrants and licensees under both the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act and the Cannabis Legalization Act, of which at least one member has a manufacturing facility registration certificate or license, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. In making the appointments under this paragraph, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall consider up to 6 recommendations from associations representing the interests of the cannabis industry;

D. One public member who is not a registrant under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act, a licensee under the Cannabis Legalization Act or a lobbyist or lobbyist associate as defined in Title 3, section 312-A, subsections 10 and 10-A, respectively, and who has knowledge of and interest in cannabis, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

E. Two members who are municipal officials in municipalities that have ordinances allowing for all registration types under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act and all license types under the Cannabis Legalization Act, appointed by the director;

F. Two members who have a demonstrated knowledge of cannabis science, medicine or research and, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree, appointed by the director. The director shall make a reasonable effort to appoint a member who has at least 5 years of relevant experience; and

G. One member who is a public health professional, appointed by the director.

To the extent practicable, the membership of the council must reflect a geographic distribution across the State.

2. Cannabis business advocate. The cannabis business advocate established by Public Law 2023, chapter 683 serves as an ex officio nonvoting member of the council.

3. Purpose. The council shall make recommendations to the director and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over cannabis matters concerning:

A. How best to work with state agencies, municipal governments, the medical use cannabis industry and adult use cannabis industry and citizen groups to make improvements to and maintain the quality of the State's medical use cannabis industry and adult use cannabis industry; and

B. Matters of interest to the State's medical use cannabis industry and adult use cannabis industry, including, but not limited to, financial services, taxation, cannabis-related research and development, environmental and public health protection, cannabis policy in other states and federal legalization.

The council is responsible for bringing forward to the director and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over cannabis matters issues of concern to the cannabis industry and for assisting in the dissemination of information to members of the cannabis industry. The council may solicit and consider public comment during its meetings.

4. Terms. The term of a member appointed to the council is 3 years, except that a vacancy during an unexpired term must be filled in the same manner as for the original member for the unexpired portion of the member's term. A member may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms.

5. Chair and vice-chair. The council shall elect a member of the council as chair and a member as vice-chair at the first regular meeting of each year. The term of the chair and vice-chair is one year.

6. Meetings; staffing. The council shall meet at least 4 times a year and, to the extent practicable, at more than one location throughout the State. It may also meet at other times at the call of the chair or the director. The office shall provide administrative and staff support for the council within existing resources.

7. Compensation. Council members are entitled to reimbursement for expenses in accordance with Title 5, chapter 379, which is paid in equal proportions from the Adult Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund established in section 1102 and the Medical Use of Cannabis Fund established in Title 22, section 2430.

Sec. 4. 28-B MRSA §1102, as amended by PL 2023, c. 679, Pt. B, §141, is further amended to read:

§1102. Adult Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund

The Adult Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing Other Special Revenue Funds account in the office. The fund is administered and used by the director for the purposes of adopting rules under this chapter ~~and~~, for the purposes of implementing, administering and enforcing this chapter and for the purpose of paying the reimbursement for expenses of the Cannabis Advisory Council established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 2-J. The director may expend money in the fund to enter into contracts with consultants and employ staff, as determined necessary by the director, conduct meetings with stakeholders and conduct any other activities related to the implementation, administration and enforcement of this chapter.

Sec. 5. Cannabis Advisory Council; staggered terms. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 28-B, section 115, subsection 4, of the initial members appointed to the Cannabis Advisory Council pursuant to Title 28-B, section 115, subsection 1, the first appointments made pursuant to subsection 1, paragraphs A, B, E and F are for one-year terms; the 2nd appointments made pursuant to subsection 1, paragraphs A, B, E and F are for 2-year terms; and all other appointments are for 3-year terms. An initial term of one year may not be considered a full term for the purposes of limiting the number of terms for which a member may serve.

Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Adult Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund Z264

Initiative: Provides funding for reimbursement of expenses for Cannabis Advisory Council members.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
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All Other	\$5,877	\$5,877
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$5,877</u>	<u>\$5,877</u>
Medical Use of Cannabis Fund Z265		
Initiative: Provides funding for reimbursement of expenses for Cannabis Advisory Council members.		
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$5,877	\$5,877
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$5,877</u>	<u>\$5,877</u>
 ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS		
	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$11,754	\$11,754
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$11,754</u>	<u>\$11,754</u>