



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1669

S.P. 664

In Senate, April 17, 2025

An Act to Establish the Cannabis Advisory Council

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland and
Senators: DUSON of Cumberland, GROHOSKI of Hancock, TIMBERLAKE of
Androscoggin, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: CHAPMAN of Auburn,
FREDERICKS of Sanford, GUERRETTE of Caribou, SUPICA of Bangor.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§2-J** is enacted to read:

3 **2-J.**

4 Cannabis Cannabis Advisory Council Expenses Only 28-B MRSA
5 §115

6 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §2430, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 181, Pt. A, §2, is
7 further amended to read:

8 **3. Uses of the fund.** The fund may be used for expenses of the department to
9 administer this chapter, for reimbursement for expenses of the Cannabis Advisory Council
10 established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 2-J or for research in accordance with
11 subsection 5, as allocated by the Legislature.

12 **Sec. 3. 28-B MRSA §115** is enacted to read:

13 **§115. Cannabis Advisory Council**

14 **1. Appointment; composition.** The Cannabis Advisory Council, referred to in this
15 section as "the council" and established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 2-J, consists
16 of 10 members who are appointed as follows:

17 A. Three members who are registrants under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act,
18 of which at least one member is a registered caregiver, appointed by the President of
19 the Senate. In making the appointments under this paragraph, the President of the
20 Senate shall consider up to 6 recommendations from associations representing the
21 interests of the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act;

22 B. One public member who is a qualifying patient under the Maine Medical Use of
23 Cannabis Act with knowledge of and interest in the medical use of cannabis, appointed
24 by the President of the Senate;

25 C. Three members who are licensees under the Cannabis Legalization Act, of which at
26 least one member has a cultivation facility license, appointed by the Speaker of the
27 House. In making the appointments under this paragraph, the Speaker of the House
28 shall consider up to 6 recommendations from associations representing the interests of
29 the adult use cannabis industry;

30 D. One public member with knowledge of and interest in adult use cannabis, appointed
31 by the Speaker of the House;

32 E. One member who is a municipal official in a municipality that has ordinances
33 allowing for all registration types under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act and
34 all license types under the Cannabis Legalization Act, appointed by the director; and

35 F. One member who has a demonstrated knowledge of cannabis science and research
36 and, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree, appointed by the director. The director shall
37 make a reasonable effort to appoint a member who has at least 5 years of relevant
38 experience.

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

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

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

8 B. Matters of interest to the State's medical use cannabis industry and adult use
9 cannabis industry, including, but not limited to, changes to the tracking system
10 contract, public health protection and federal legalization.

11 The council is responsible for bringing forward to the director and the joint standing
12 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over cannabis matters issues of concern
13 to the medical use cannabis industry and adult use cannabis industry and for assisting in
14 the dissemination of information to members of the medical use cannabis industry and adult
15 use cannabis industry.

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

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

23 **5. Meeting.** The council shall meet at least once a year. It may also meet at other times
24 at the call of the chair or the director. In advance of a meeting with an organization holding
25 the contract for the tracking system for cannabis with the State, the council shall meet to
26 discuss matters of interest to the medical use cannabis industry and adult use cannabis
27 industry, the department and the organization holding the contract for the tracking system
28 for cannabis and to make recommendations to the director and the joint standing committee
29 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over cannabis matters as necessary.

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

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

36 **§1102. Adult Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund**

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

1 other activities related to the implementation, administration and enforcement of this
2 chapter.

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill establishes the Cannabis Advisory Council to make recommendations to the
5 Director of the Office of Cannabis Policy within the Department of Administrative and
6 Financial Services and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
7 over cannabis matters concerning how best to work with state agencies, municipal
8 governments, the medical use cannabis industry and adult use cannabis industry and citizen
9 groups to make improvements to and maintain the quality of the State's medical use
10 cannabis industry and adult use cannabis industry concerning matters of interest to the
11 State's medical use cannabis industry and adult use cannabis industry, including, but not
12 limited to, changes to the tracking system contract, public health protection and federal
13 legalization. The council is responsible for bringing forward to the director and the joint
14 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over cannabis matters issues of
15 concern to the medical use cannabis industry and adult use cannabis industry and for
16 assisting in the dissemination of information to members of the medical use cannabis
17 industry and adult use cannabis industry.