

Date:

(Filing No. S-)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 664, L.D. 1669, “An Act to Establish the Cannabis Advisory Council”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 and inserting the following:

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

§115. Cannabis Advisory Council

1. Appointment; composition. The Cannabis Advisory Council, referred to in this section as "the council" and established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 2-J, consists of 12 members who are appointed as follows:

A. Two members who are registrants under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act, who are not also licensees under the Cannabis Legalization Act, of which at least one member is a registered caregiver who cultivates cannabis for medical use outdoors, appointed by the President of the Senate. In making the appointments under this paragraph, the President of the Senate shall consider up to 6 recommendations from associations representing the interests of registrants under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act;

B. Two members who are licensees under the Cannabis Legalization Act, who are not also registrants under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act, of which at least one member has a cultivation facility license, appointed by the Speaker of the House. In making the appointments under this paragraph, the Speaker of the House shall consider 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;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 **6. Meetings; staffing.** The council shall meet at least 4 times a year and, to the extent
42 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.'

Amend the bill by inserting after section 4 the following:

'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
All Other	\$5,877	\$5,877
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$5,877	\$5,877

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	\$5,877	\$5,877

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL
SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$11,754	\$11,754
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$11,754	\$11,754

1 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
2 number to read consecutively.

3 SUMMARY

4 This amendment increases the total membership of the Cannabis Advisory Council
5 established in the bill from 10 members to 12 members. It also adjusts the membership of
6 the council in the following ways.

7 1. It decreases from 3 to 2 the members who are registrants under the Maine Medical
8 Use of Cannabis Act and specifies that the one member who must be a registered caregiver
9 must cultivate cannabis for medical use outdoors. It also clarifies that these members may
10 not also be licensees under the Cannabis Legalization Act.

11 2. It removes a public member who is a qualifying patient under the Maine Medical
12 Use of Cannabis Act with knowledge of and interest in the medical use of cannabis.

13 3. It decreases from 3 to 2 the members who are licensees under the Cannabis
14 Legalization Act and clarifies that these members may not also be registrants under the
15 Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act.

16 4. It adds 2 members who are registrants and licensees under both the Maine Medical
17 Use of Cannabis Act and the Cannabis Legalization Act. These members will be appointed
18 jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, based upon 6
19 recommendations from associations representing the interests of the cannabis industry.

20 5. It clarifies that the public member with knowledge of and interest in cannabis may
21 not also be a registrant or licensee under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act or the
22 Cannabis Legalization Act or a lobbyist or lobbyist associate.

23 6. It increases from one to 2 the members who are municipal officials in municipalities
24 that have ordinances allowing for all registration types under the Maine Medical Use of
25 Cannabis Act and all license types under the Cannabis Legalization Act.

26 7. It increases from one to 2 the members who have a demonstrated knowledge of
27 cannabis science and research and broadens the criteria to include medicine.

28 8. It adds one member who is a public health professional, to be appointed by the
29 Director of the Office of Cannabis Policy within the Department of Administrative and
30 Financial Services.

31 9. It adds the cannabis business advocate as an ex officio nonvoting member of the
32 council.

33 It also provides for staggered initial terms for members of the council.

34 The amendment also changes the purpose of the council to remove making
35 recommendations on changing the tracking system contract and including making
36 recommendations on matters of interest to the cannabis industry related to financial
37 services, taxation, cannabis-related research and development, environmental health
38 protection and cannabis policy in other states. It also provides that the council may solicit
39 and consider public comment during its meetings and that the office must provide
40 administrative and staff support for the council within existing resources.

1 The amendment also increases the number of times the council must meet from at least
2 once a year to at least 4 times a year and includes a requirement that, to the extent
3 practicable, the council must meet at more than one location throughout the State. It also
4 removes the provisions specific to a meeting with an organization holding the contract for
5 the tracking system for cannabis with the State.

6 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

7 **(See attached)**