

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 6/13/25

L.D. 948

(Filing No. H-699)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 613, L.D. 948, "An Act to Reduce Administrative Burdens and Expand Access in the Laws Governing Cannabis"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2423-F, sub-§8, as repealed and replaced by PL 2019, c. 331, §17 and amended by PL 2021, c. 669, §5, is further amended to read:

8. Registration requirements. This subsection governs registration requirements of a manufacturing facility or a person authorized to engage in cannabis extraction using inherently hazardous substances under subsection 3 and the officer or director or assistant of the facility or person.

A. In accordance with rules adopted under subsection 10, the department shall register and issue a registration certificate with a registry identification number to a manufacturing facility or a person authorized to engage in cannabis extraction within 30 days to the facility or person if the facility or person provides:

- (1) The ~~annual~~ fee required pursuant to section 2425-A, subsection 10;
- (2) The legal name of the facility or person and, if incorporated, evidence of incorporation and evidence that the corporation is in good standing with the Secretary of State;
- (3) The physical address of the facility or person or the physical address where an applicant who is an individual will engage in the activities authorized under this section. If the facility or person changes its physical location, or if a person registered under this subsection changes the location at which the person engages in activities authorized under this section, the facility or person shall notify the department of the new location; and
- (4) The name, address and date of birth of each officer or director of the facility or person.

B. In accordance with rules adopted under subsection 10, the department shall issue registry identification cards to the officer or director or assistant of a registered

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1 manufacturing facility or person authorized to engage in cannabis extraction using
2 inherently hazardous substances within 5 business days of approving an application or
3 renewal under this subsection. A registry identification card is required to be issued to
4 an officer or director or assistant of a registered manufacturing facility or person
5 authorized to engage in cannabis extraction using inherently hazardous substances. A
6 registry identification card expires ~~one year~~ 2 years after the date of issuance. A registry
7 identification card issued under this paragraph must contain:

- 8 (1) The name of the cardholder;
9 (2) The date of issuance and expiration date of the registry identification card; and
10 (3) A random identification number that is unique to the cardholder.

11 The department may not issue a registry identification card to an officer or director or
12 assistant of a registered manufacturing facility or person authorized to engage in
13 cannabis extraction using inherently hazardous substances who has been convicted of
14 a disqualifying drug offense. The department shall conduct a criminal history record
15 check of each person, officer or director or assistant subject to this subsection ~~on an~~
16 ~~annual basis~~ every 2 years.

17 If the department determines not to issue a registry identification card for a person,
18 officer or director or assistant, the department shall notify the registered manufacturing
19 facility or person authorized to engage in cannabis extraction using inherently
20 hazardous substances in writing of the reason for denying the registry identification
21 card.'

22 Amend the bill in section 2 in paragraph D in the first line (page 1, line 11 in L.D.) by
23 striking out the following: "registration certificate" and inserting the following: 'registry
24 identification card'

25 Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

26 'Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §2425-A, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2021, c. 662, §22, is further
27 amended by amending the 2nd blocked paragraph to read:

28 In the case of a caregiver's application for renewal of a registry identification card, except
29 for a renewal under paragraph D, upon receipt of a timely filed, complete application
30 submitted by the caregiver, the department shall provide the caregiver with a written
31 statement acknowledging receipt of the application that authorizes the caregiver to continue
32 operating under the caregiver's current card until the application is approved and a renewed
33 card is issued by the department, the application is denied and the current card expires, 90
34 days elapse from the date of the written statement or the current card is suspended or
35 revoked in accordance with this chapter, whichever occurs first. If the department fails to
36 issue or deny a renewal of a registry identification card within 90 days of providing the
37 written statement acknowledging receipt of the application, the renewal is deemed granted
38 and a copy of the application for renewal of the registry identification card is deemed a
39 valid registry identification card.'

40 Amend the bill by inserting after section 3 the following:

41 'Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §2425-A, sub-§6, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 452, §12, is
42 amended to read:

43 A. The ~~annual~~ fee required pursuant to subsection 10;'

Amend the bill in section 4 in paragraph D in the first line (page 1, line 28 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "applicant" the following: "holding a valid registration certificate and"

Amend the bill by inserting after section 4 the following:

'Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §2425-A, sub-§7, as amended by PL 2021, c. 662, §27, is further amended by amending the 2nd blocked paragraph to read:

In the case of a registered dispensary's application for renewal of a registration certificate, except for a renewal under paragraph D, upon receipt of a timely filed, complete application submitted by the dispensary, the department shall provide the dispensary with a written statement acknowledging receipt of the application that authorizes the dispensary to continue operating under the dispensary's current certificate until the application is approved and a renewed certificate is issued by the department, the application is denied and the current certificate expires, 90 days elapse from the date of the written statement or the current certificate is suspended or revoked in accordance with this chapter, whichever occurs first. If the department fails to issue or deny a renewal of a registration certificate within 90 days of providing the written statement acknowledging receipt of the application, the renewal is deemed granted and a copy of the application for renewal of the registration certificate is deemed a valid registration certificate.'

Amend the bill by inserting after section 7 the following:

'Sec. 8. 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 one Office Associate II position, one Office Specialist I position, 3 OCP Licensing Analyst positions, one OCP Chief Licensing Investigator position, 5 OCP Compliance Inspector positions and one Field Investigator Supervisor position and All Other associated position costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	12,000	12,000
Personal Services	\$503,044	\$543,089
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$503,044	\$543,089

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$48,261	\$48,261
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$48,261	\$48,261

Medical Use of Cannabis Fund Z265

Initiative: Provides funding for one Office Associate II position, one Office Specialist I position, 3 OCP Licensing Analyst positions, one OCP Chief Licensing Investigator position, 5 OCP Compliance Inspector positions and one Field Investigator Supervisor position and All Other associated position costs.

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 613, L.D. 948

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$754,570	\$814,635
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$754,570	\$814,635
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$72,391	\$72,391
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$72,391	\$72,391
ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$1,257,614	\$1,357,724
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$120,652	\$120,652
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$1,378,266	\$1,478,376

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

SUMMARY

This amendment removes the provision of the bill that increases the current limit under the medical cannabis laws to allow a caregiver to cultivate up to 60 mature cannabis plants, up to 120 immature cannabis plants, up to 1,000 square feet of mature plant canopy and up to 2,000 square feet of immature plant canopy. The amendment also extends the registration period for manufacturing facilities and for persons authorized to engage in cannabis extraction using inherently hazardous substances from one year to 2 years. The amendment updates the requirement for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to conduct criminal history record checks for an officer or director or assistant of a registered manufacturing facility or person authorized to engage in cannabis extraction using inherently hazardous substances from annually to every 2 years and makes other necessary technical changes. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)

**132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE****LD 948****LR 2174(02)****An Act to Reduce Administrative Burdens and Expand Access in the Laws Governing Cannabis**

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment 'A' (H-699)
Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$1,257,614	\$1,357,724	\$1,500,675	\$1,465,691
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$1,257,614	\$1,357,724	\$1,500,675	\$1,465,691
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$120,652	\$120,652	\$120,652	\$120,652
Revenue				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	(\$4,106,571)	\$0	(\$4,106,571)

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill extends the duration of Adult Use Cannabis and Medical Use Cannabis registrations and licenses from one to two years and establishes an expedited renewal process for licensees and registrants in good standing.

The transition from annual to two-year registrations and licenses will reduce Other Special Revenue Funds revenue to the Medical Use of Cannabis Fund by \$2,451,151 and the Adult-Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund by \$1,655,420 in fiscal year 2026-27 and are projected to decrease revenue by similar amounts in fiscal year 2028-29. This estimate is based on current registration and license data.

The Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services has indicated that because the licensing platform cannot automatically verify whether a registrant has remained violation-free, staff will need to review each file and manually verify the compliance determination. Additionally, the annual renewal process was previously the time when a majority of applicants updated ownership percentages, operating plans, and local authorizations and used that updated information for other required licenses, registrations, and certificates from other state and local entities. As a result, OCP anticipates an increase in off-cycle change applications due to the shift in license terms from one to two years. Along with the administrative review needs, OCP has indicated that most licenses are currently inspected on a rolling 18-month cycle, and the changes outlined in this bill would necessitate shifting that inspection cycle to an annual basis.

The bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$1,257,614 and Other Special Revenue Funds allocations of \$120,652 beginning in fiscal year 2025-26 for the additional licensing and compliance staff listed below.

Compliance Staff	Number
OCP Chief Licensing Investigator	1
OCP Compliance Inspector	5
Field Investigator Supervisor	1
Licensing Staff	
Office Associate II	1
Office Specialist I	1
OCP Licensing Analyst	3

Because this bill includes statutory references to both the Adult-Use and Medical Use of Cannabis programs, the appropriations and allocations noted above have been proportionally funded across both programs. This distribution is noted below.

Adult Use

General Fund	\$503,044
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$48,261

Medical Use

General Fund	\$754,570
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$72,391