

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1669**

S.P. 664

In Senate, April 17, 2025

### **An Act to Establish the Cannabis Advisory Council**

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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", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

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.

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

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

2-J.

<u>Cannabis</u>	<u>Cannabis Advisory Council</u>	<u>Expenses Only</u>	<u>28-B MRSA</u> \$115
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**Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §2430, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 181, Pt. A, §2, is further amended to read:

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

**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 10 members who are appointed as follows:

A. Three members who are registrants under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act, of which at least one member is a registered caregiver, 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 the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act;

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

C. Three members who are licensees under the Cannabis Legalization 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;

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

E. One member who is a municipal official in a municipality that has 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; and

F. One member who has a demonstrated knowledge of cannabis science and 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.

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