# MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES

#### **HEALTHY MISSOURIANS FOR LIFE**



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# Missouri Cannabis Regulatory Program Update

#### Tara McKinney Public Outreach Director

#### **Division Mission Statement:**

A program that provides safe and secure access to cannabis for qualifying Missouri patients and adult consumers over the age of 21 years through consistent regulation, enforcement, and education.



**Patient Rights:** 

- Discuss freely with their physicians the possible benefits of medical marijuana use;
- Use medical marijuana for treatment under the supervision of a physician.
- A program that provides safe and secure access to cannabis for qualifying Missouri patients and adult consumers over the age of 21 years through consistent regulation, enforcement, and education.

#### Purpose:

The purpose of Amendment 3 is to make marijuana legal under state and local law for adults 21 years of age or older, and to control the commercial production and distribution of marijuana under a system that licenses, regulates, and taxes the businesses involved while protecting public health.



The intent is to prevent:

- Arrest and penalty for personal possession and cultivation of limited amounts of marijuana by adults 21 years of age or older.
- Remove the commercial production and distribution of marijuana from the illicit market.
- Prevent revenue generated from commerce in marijuana from going to criminal enterprises.
- Prevent the distribution of marijuana to persons under 21 years of age.
- Prevent the diversion of marijuana to illicit markets.
- Protect public health by ensuring the safety of marijuana and products containing marijuana; and ensure the security of marijuana facilities.



#### Highlights:

- Removes state prohibitions on purchasing, possessing, consuming, using, delivering, manufacturing and selling cannabis for personal use for adults over the age of 21.
- Requires a registration card for personal cultivation with prescribed limits.
- Establishes a lottery selection process to award licenses and certificates.
- Issues equally distributed licenses to each congressional district and Imposes a 6% state sales tax on the retail price of cannabis to benefit various programs.



Highlights continued:

- Qualified Patients' purchase limits to increases from 4 ounces to 6 ounces in a 30 day period.
- Patient identification card fee is \$25 and valid for three years instead of 12 months.
- Qualified patients can possess up to a 60-day supply or 12 ounces without penalty.
- Reduces patient renewal of cultivation license from \$100 to \$50 every three years. However, adult use home growers will need to annually renew their cultivation registration card for \$100 annual fee.
- Patient can only grow for personal use while adult growers can give their harvest to others as long as no money is exchanged or other commercial transaction takes place.

### Veterans' Health and Care Fund – Article XIV Section 1

Consisting of taxes and all fees deposited into the Fund (minus 2% allowed to Department of Revenue).



## Veterans, Health and Community Reinvestment Fund – Article XIV Section 2

Consisting of taxes and all fees deposited into the Fund (minus 2% allowed to Department of Revenue). Section 2.6(1) also allows licensed entities to receive tax credits on returns of non-medical retail sales.



#### First

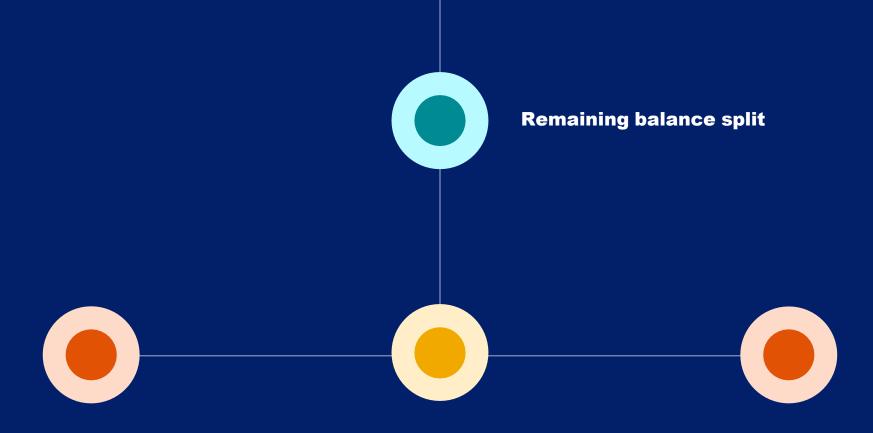
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

An amount necessary for the department to carry out its responsibilities under Section 2.

Second

#### **Government Entities**

To carry out responsibilities for expungement of criminal history records under Section 2.



One-third

#### Missouri Veterans Commission

and allied state agencies exclusively for health care and other services for military veterans and their dependent families. One-third

#### Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

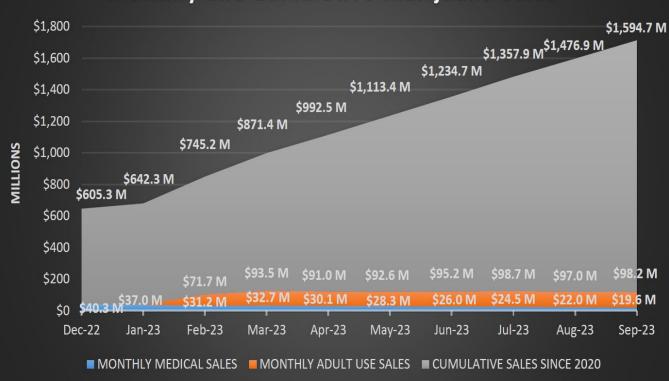
for grants to agencies and not-forprofits for evidence-based low-barrier drug addiction treatment. One-third

#### Missouri Public Defender System

for low-income eligible Missourians.

### **Marijuana Sales Revenue**

- Sales began October 16, 2020.
  - Monthly Sales data is posted to the Data and Reports page and represents a *cumulative* total.
  - Sales as of September, 2023:
    - Medical \$19.6M
    - Adult Use \$98.2M



#### Monthly and Cumulative Marijuana Sales



- Responsible for coordinating plans: Continuity of Operations Planning (Coop), communications plan, strategic planning, and market study.
- Coordinate with Office of Public Information (OPI) regarding media inquiries, website and public communication posts, and publication of reports.
- Coordinate the Division's compilation of the Missouri Medical Marijuana Regulatory Program's Annual Report to the Governor.
- Coordinate with Office of General Counsel on Sunshine Requests.
- Financial activities: Budget and Performance Metrics, Fixed Asset Tracking, Fiscal Notes, accounts payable, purchasing, and employee expense accounts.
- Staff professional development and training coordination.

Operational Support	Business Opportunity	Patient & Application Services	Facility Compliance & Enforcement	

- Conduct review and certify that awarded microbusiness licensees are eligible applicants and are in good standing for licensure.
- Ensure eligibility review is publicly available.
- Publish public education programming detailing licensing process and information regarding available support and resources to individuals interested in applying for microbusiness licensure.
- Establish targeted technical assistance programming to communities impacted by cannabis prohibition.
- Annual report to the legislature of compliance activities.
- Assist in designing and implementing grant program for addiction/overdose treatment/education.



- Process individual applications for medical cannabis licensure, agent ID, and personal cultivation.
- Staff call center to answer public's call and email inquiries.
- Review criminal history background checks for licensure in accordance to federal law and polices and state law and associated rules.
- Respond to applicant call and email inquiries.
- Review criminal history background checks for licensure in accordance to federal law and polices and state law and associated rules.
- Process and provide technical assistance for facility applications and required supporting documentation.



- Verify eligibility for licensure of microbusinesses and comprehensive facilities.
- Process and approve or deny Business Change Requests.
- Process fees for facility annual and renewal requirements, and process facility assessed fines.
- Process notices of violation, revocations, variances and sanctions for licensure issues.
- Develop written and consistent guidance for rule interpretation.
- Coordinate consistent process and procedures across the Section.
- Coordinate with Office of General Council regarding responses for rule interpretation.
- Research and design industry and policy specific trainings for staff.
- Compile and analyze datasets and report noncompliant entries to the compliance team for review.
- Create and maintain processes, procedures, and training for staff on the tracking system.
- Create data-reporting documents and tools to use as evidence to support an investigation or enforcement action.
- Collaborate with division teams and lead investigation involving large/complex datasets.



- Conduct investigations against licensed/certified facilities and individuals, take enforcement action, and serve as subject matter experts in litigation of revocation/suspension.
- Process facility requests for packaging and labeling approvals and enforce compliance.
- Process licensee requests for material deviation from previously approved facility design.
- Ensure compliance for cannabis license facilities per Article XIV and 19 CSR 30-95.
- Responsible for inspection of all facility license types.
- Coordinate product recall notices.
- Process recommendations for facility variances from rule.
- Take appropriate action on track and trace incidents forwarded from the Investigations Unit.
- Review remote access to licensed facility security systems for compliance.
- Recommend and follow-up on any enforcement type actions being taken with the licensee, including initial notices of violations, warning letters, administrative holds or restrictions.

# **Funds in the Future**

Veterans' Health and Care Fund

- \$13M for FY24
- FY25 in early budget process

Veterans, Health and Community Reinvestment Fund

- \$1.2M for FY24
- FY25 in early budget process



# Missouri Cannabis Regulatory Program Access FAQs, review the rules or access other patient and facility information by visiting our website:

https://cannabis.mo.gov

Email: Cannabisinfo@health.mo.gov

866-219-0165 (Monday-Thursday: 9am-4pm)