

CHAPTER 2025-57

No. 455 AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 27 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE ENTITLED "THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE ZONING ORDINANCE" APPROVED NOVEMBER 24, 2014, AS AMENDED, TO CHANGE CERTAIN REGULATIONS REGARDING CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS

Approved November 24, 2025

Be it ordained by the City of Providence:

SECTION 1: Chapter 27 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence, entitled "The City of Providence Zoning Ordinance" approved November 24, 2014, as amended, is hereby further amended as follows:

ARTICLE 12

Table 12-1: Use Matrix and Section 1204 Use Definitions

Change the titles of Hybrid Cannabis Retailer/Cannabis Cultivator, Social Equity/Workers' Cooperative Licensed Cannabis Retailer, and Compassion Center/Cultivation Center to: Cannabis- Hybrid Cannabis Retailer/Cannabis Cultivator, Cannabis- Social Equity/Workers' Cooperative Licensed Cannabis Retailer, and Cannabis- Compassion Center/Cultivation Center, respectively.

1202 PRINCIPAL USE STANDARDS

EE. Cannabis- Hybrid Cannabis Retailer/Cannabis Cultivator

1. No more than the square footage for which the applicant is licensed shall be permitted for the use. ~~The Zoning Board of Review may, in its discretion, limit the use to less square footage than that for which the applicant is licensed.~~
2. Any square footage in the property not devoted to the use must be segregated from the facility by a wall or similar structure.
3. The applicant must submit evidence of the following:
 - ~~a. That it has obtained a license or registration to cultivate, acquire and/or dispense in the State of Rhode Island, subject to zoning approval and final inspection of the property by the licensing/registering entity.~~
 - ~~b.a. All measures undertaken to contain noise and odors shall demonstrate that ~~it~~ the applicant has taken all reasonable measures to contain noise and odors.~~
 - e.b. The security plan(s) for the property and the facility.
 - d.c. Staffing numbers for all hours of each day.
 - e.d. The number of vehicles that will access the facility on a daily or weekly basis.
4. A Hybrid Cannabis Retailer/Cannabis Cultivator may not be located within ¾ mile from the property line of another Hybrid Cannabis Retailer/Cannabis Cultivator.
5. A Hybrid Cannabis Retailer/Cannabis Cultivator may not be located within 1,000 feet from the property line of a preexisting public or private school.

6. Setbacks under this section shall be measured from the nearest property line of the Hybrid Cannabis Retailer/Cannabis Cultivator using a direct line to the nearest property line of the school or other Hybrid Cannabis Retailer/Cannabis Cultivator.
7. All Hybrid Cannabis Retailer/Cannabis Cultivators operating within the City of Providence shall be required to prominently display signage outlining city and state cannabis consumption laws, in compliance with all regulations put forth by the Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission. This signage must be visible at all customer entry points and within all sales areas. The signage shall include, but not be limited to, the prohibition of smoking or vaporizing cannabis in public spaces such as parks, sidewalks, and other areas where smoking is prohibited, in accordance with the Rhode Island Cannabis Act, the Public Health and Workplace Safety Act, and all applicable city ordinances. ~~Failure to comply with this requirement shall be punishable by a fine of up to \$100 for the first offense. If the establishment remains non-compliant, each subsequent violation shall be punishable by a fine of \$250 per offense.~~
8. ~~Prior to the issuance of a permit for a Hybrid Cannabis Retailer/Cannabis Cultivator, In addition to the notice requirements in Sections 1801 and 1901, the applicant shall simultaneously submit notice to the City Clerk that such a facility is proposed at a particular location of the special use permit application, and t. The City Clerk shall send such notice to the council person of the ward in which the facility is proposed. The applicant shall simultaneously send such notice by first class mail to owners of real property within 200 feet of the subject property and shall send to the City Clerk an affidavit that such notice has been mailed. A permit to establish the use shall not be issued for at least two weeks following the submission and mailing of such notice.~~

JJ. Cannabis Retailer

1. No more than the square footage for which the applicant is licensed~~s~~ shall be permitted for the use. ~~The Zoning Board of Review may, in its discretion, limit the use to less square footage than that for which the applicant is licensed.~~
2. Any square footage in the property not devoted to the use must be segregated from the facility by a wall or similar structure.
3. The applicant must submit evidence of the following:
 - ~~a. That it has obtained a license or registration to cultivate, acquire and/or dispense in the State of Rhode Island, subject to zoning approval and final inspection of the property by the licensing/registering entity.~~
 - ~~b.a. All measures undertaken to constrain noise and odors shall demonstrate that the applicant# has taken all reasonable measures to contain noise and odors.~~
 - ~~e.b. The security plan(s) for the property and the facility.~~
 - ~~d.c. Staffing numbers for all hours of each day.~~
4. A Cannabis Retailer may not be located within 500 feet from the property line of a preexisting public or private school, other Cannabis Retailer.
5. Setbacks under this section shall be measured from the nearest property line of the Cannabis Retailer using a direct line to the nearest property line of the school, or other Cannabis Retailer.
6. All Cannabis Retailers operating within the City of Providence shall be required to prominently display signage outlining city and state cannabis consumption laws, in compliance with all regulation put forth by the Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission. This signage must be visible at all customer entry points and within all sales areas. The signage shall include, but not be limited to, the prohibition of

smoking or vaporizing cannabis in public spaces such as parks, sidewalks, and other areas where smoking is prohibited, in accordance with the Rhode Island Cannabis Act, the Public Health and Workplace Safety Act, and all applicable city ordinances. ~~Failure to comply with this requirement shall be punishable by a fine of up to \$100 for the first offense. If the establishment remains non-compliant, each subsequent violation shall be punishable by a fine of \$250 per offense.~~

- ~~7. Prior to the issuance of a permit for a Cannabis Retailer~~ In addition to the notice requirements in Sections 1801 and 1901, the applicant shall simultaneously submit notice to the City Clerk ~~that such a facility is proposed at a particular location of the special use permit application, and t~~The City Clerk shall send such notice to the council person of the ward in which the facility is \proposed. ~~The applicant shall simultaneously send such notice by first class mail to owners of real property within 200 feet of the subject property and shall send to the City Clerk an affidavit that such notice has been mailed. A permit to establish the use shall not be issued for at least two weeks following the submission and mailing of such notice.~~

KK. Cannabis- Social Equity/Workers' Cooperative Licensed Cannabis Retailer

~~1. No more than the square footage for which the applicant is licenses shall be permitted for the use. The Zoning Board of Review may, in its discretion, limit the use to less square footage than that for which the applicant is licensed.~~

~~2.~~ 1. Any square footage in the property not devoted to the use must be segregated from the facility by a wall or similar structure.

~~3.~~ 2. The applicant must submit evidence of the following:

~~a. That is has obtained a license or registration to cultivate, acquire and/or dispense in the State of Rhode Island, subject to zoning approval and final inspection of the property by the licensing/registering entity.~~

~~b. That it has been recognized as a Social Equity applicant or a Workers' Collaborative pursuant to chapter 28.11 of title 21 of the General Laws.~~

~~e.a. All measures undertaken to constrain noise and odors shall demonstrate t~~That the applicant has taken all reasonable measures to contain noise and odors.

~~d.b.~~ _____ The security plan(s) for the property and the facility.

~~e.c.~~ _____ Staffing numbers for all hours of each day.

~~4.3.~~ A Social Equity/Workers' Collaborative Licensed Cannabis Retailer may not be located within 500 feet from the property line of a preexisting public or private school.

~~5.4.~~ Setbacks under this section shall be measured from the nearest property line of the Cannabis Retailer using a direct line to the nearest property line of the school, other Cannabis Retailer.

~~6.5.~~ All Social Equity/Workers' Collaborative Licensed Cannabis Retailers operating within the City of Providence shall be required to prominently display signage outlining city and state cannabis consumption laws, in compliance with all regulation put forth by the Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission. This signage must be visible at all customer entry points and within all sales areas. The signage shall include, but not be limited to, the prohibition of smoking or vaporizing cannabis in public spaces such as parks, sidewalks, and other areas where smoking is prohibited, in accordance with the Rhode Island Cannabis Act, the Public Health and Workplace Safety Act, and all applicable city ordinances. ~~Failure to comply with this requirement shall be punishable by a fine of up to \$100 for the first offense. If the establishment remains non-compliant, each subsequent violation shall be punishable by a fine of \$250 per offense.~~

- ~~6.~~ Prior to the issuance of a permit for a Social Equity/Workers' Collaborative Cannabis Retailer In addition to the notice requirements in Sections 1801 and 1901, the applicant

shall simultaneously submit notice to the City Clerk ~~that such a facility is proposed at a particular location, of the special use permit application, and t~~The City Clerk shall send such notice to the council person of the ward in which the facility is proposed. ~~The applicant shall simultaneously send such notice by first-class mail to owners of real property within 200 feet of the subject property and shall send to the City Clerk an affidavit that such notice has been mailed. A permit to establish the use shall not be issued for at least two weeks following the submission and mailing of such notice.~~

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

IN CITY COUNCIL
NOV 06 2025
FIRST READING
READ AND PASSED

Tina L. Mastrosanni
CLERK

IN CITY
COUNCIL
NOV 20 2025
FINAL READING
READ AND PASSED

[Signature]
RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT
Tina L. Mastrosanni
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

Scott Smith

Mayor

Date: 11/24/25



CITY OF PROVIDENCE
MAYOR BRETT P. SMILEY

August 25, 2025

Councilman Pedro Espinal,
Chair, Committee on Ordinances
Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903

Attn: Tina Mastroianni, City Clerk

Re: Referral 3602 – Amendment of sections 1202.EE, JJ and KK pertaining to cannabis regulations
Proponent: Department of Planning and Development (DPD)

Dear Councilman Espinal,

This amendment will apply to sections 1202.EE, JJ and KK of the ordinance pertaining to the Hybrid Cannabis Retailer/Cannabis Cultivator, Cannabis Retailer and Social Equity/Workers' Cooperative Licensed Cannabis Retailer uses. State law pertaining to cannabis retail uses has been changed to require that applicants obtain approval from municipalities prior to applying for state permits. This is a departure from the current process where applicants were required to obtain state approvals before applying for municipal approvals. The amendment will update the ordinance to reflect the changes to state law. The CPC found that the amendment would be consistent with section 101.N of the zoning ordinance which provides for efficient review of development proposals by clarifying and expediting the zoning approval process.

RECOMMENDATION

On a motion by Commissioner Quezada, seconded by Commissioner Lipschitz, the CPC voted to make a positive recommendation to the City Council to approve the proposed amendment.

The CPC voted as follows:

Aye: M. Quezada, C. Lipschitz, N. Sanchez, C. McKenna, M. Gazdacko

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Choyon Manjrekar".

Choyon Manjrekar
Administrative Officer

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

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