

Overview

Cannabis law outlines the role of municipalities in the process to license certain types of cannabis license. This role **only applies to retail dispensary, on-site consumption, and delivery licenses**. Municipalities are allowed an opportunity to express an opinion on whether or not they support or oppose applications for licensure.

In NYC this role is delegated to the various Community Boards across NYC.

FAQs

Q: What is the role of Community Boards in the process to approve or deny a cannabis license?

A: Per Cannabis Law, municipalities are allowed the opportunity to express an opinion on whether or not they support the Cannabis Control Board's approval of a retail dispensary, on-site consumption, or registered organization with dispensing license in their area. Communities Boards do not have a role in other cannabis licenses (i.e., nursery, cultivator, processor, distributor).

Q: Where do Community Board's fit in the process to approve retail dispensary and/or on-site consumption licenses?

A: People or businesses who apply for a cannabis retail dispensary, including registered organizations with a dispensing license or on-site consumption should submit a notification that their proposed location (premises) is within the boundary of the Community Board prior to filing their application. Applicants must be mindful that the

Q: Are there laws or regulations that limit where cannabis dispensaries can be located?

A: OCM has released a package of proposed regulations for Adult-Use cannabis. These proposed regulations describe how to measure the required distance between cannabis dispensaries/on-site consumption and school grounds/house of worship (this distance is required by Cannabis Law). The proposed regulations would require a 1,000 foot radius around each dispensary or on-site consumption licensed premises in New York City. These regulations are not final and comments on the proposed regulations can be set to regulations@ocm.ny.gov by February 13, 2023.

Q: Are people allowed to smoke or otherwise sample cannabis in a retail dispensary?

A: Customers can examine cannabis products in a dispensary before purchasing. They may not consume (smoke, vape, eat, dab) cannabis to "sample" a product. The proposed regulations do include language that would allow for retail dispensaries to operate an adjoining premises for the consumption of cannabis products sold by that dispensary – similar to a smoking area/longue in a cigar store. These regulations are not final. If you wish to provide feedback on the proposed regulations you may submit comments to: regulations@ocm.ny.gov no later than 11:59 p.m. on February 13, 2023.

FAQs

Q: What kinds of products are sold in a retail cannabis dispensary?

A: A licensed retail dispensary may sell a range of cannabis products. This could include flower (loose cannabis used for smoking), pre-rolls (joints), vapes, concentrates (sometimes called shatter, wax, resin, etc.), topicals (lotions, balms, creams), and edibles. Edibles include cannabis-infused food items (gummies, mints, lozenges, baked goods, chocolates etc.), non-alcoholic beverages (seltzer, soda, teas), as well as capsules, tablets, and/or tinctures. All cannabis products sold in licensed dispensaries must meet rigorous testing standards and packaging guidelines, and must include labels listing the quantity of cannabis in the product and its potency (strength).

Q: How do people know if a retail dispensary is approved or not?

A: Dispensaries which are licensed by the New York State Office of Cannabis Management are required to display the [Dispensary Verification Tool](#). This sign will be posted in the windows of all legally licensed dispensaries and available for consumers to see when purchasing cannabis via delivery. This tool has a QR code that will allow consumers to scan to find the address and confirm the location of the dispensary. An example of the Dispensary Verification Tool is available on the [OCM website](#). Consumers should also make sure that any products they buy are regulated as well. They can do this by making sure that the [New York State Universal Symbol](#) is on their product. This symbol is required to be present on every legal adult-use cannabis product. An example of the symbol can be found on the [OCM website](#).

Learn More

To learn more about the Office of Cannabis Management visit our website at: cannabis.ny.gov

To stay in touch with the Office and Board, sign up for updates at:

https://cannabis.ny.gov/sign_up_for_updates_from_OCM

