



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 5403



Offered by:

SEN. HARDING, 30th Dist.

SEN. CICARELLA, 34th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5350

File No. 716

Cal. No. 450

"AN ACT CONCERNING CANNABIS, HEMP AND INFUSED BEVERAGE REGULATION."

1 Strike section 20 in its entirety and renumber the remaining sections
2 and internal references accordingly

3 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
4 internal references accordingly:

5 "Sec. 501. Section 21a-277 of the general statutes is repealed and the
6 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

7 (a) (1) No person may manufacture, distribute, sell, prescribe,
8 dispense, compound, transport with the intent to sell or dispense,
9 possess with the intent to sell or dispense, offer, give or administer to
10 another person, except as authorized in this chapter, any controlled
11 substance that is a (A) narcotic substance, or (B) hallucinogenic
12 substance.

13 (2) Any person who violates subdivision (1) of this subsection (A) for

14 a first offense, (i) shall be imprisoned not more than fifteen years and
15 may be fined not more than fifty thousand dollars, or be both fined and
16 imprisoned, or (ii) if such substance was found to be, or to have
17 contained, fentanyl, shall be imprisoned not less than five years nor
18 more than fifteen years and may be fined not more than fifty thousand
19 dollars, or be both fined and imprisoned, (B) for a second offense, (i)
20 shall be imprisoned not more than thirty years and may be fined not
21 more than one hundred thousand dollars, or be both fined and
22 imprisoned, or (ii) if such substance was found to be, or to have
23 contained, fentanyl, shall be imprisoned not less than ten years nor more
24 than thirty years and may be fined not more than one hundred thousand
25 dollars, or be both fined and imprisoned, and (C) for any subsequent
26 offense, (i) shall be imprisoned not more than thirty years and may be
27 fined not more than two hundred fifty thousand dollars, or be both fined
28 and imprisoned, or (ii) if such substance was found to be, or to have
29 contained, fentanyl, shall be imprisoned not less than twelve years nor
30 more than thirty years and may be fined not more than two hundred
31 fifty thousand dollars, or be both fined and imprisoned.

32 (b) (1) No person may manufacture, distribute, sell, prescribe,
33 dispense, compound, transport with the intent to sell or dispense,
34 possess with the intent to sell or dispense, offer, give or administer to
35 another person, except as authorized in this chapter or chapter 420f, any
36 controlled substance other than (A) a narcotic substance, or (B) a
37 hallucinogenic substance, or (C) cannabis.

38 (2) Any person who violates subdivision (1) of this subsection (A) for
39 a first offense, may be fined not more than twenty-five thousand dollars
40 or imprisoned not more than seven years, or be both fined and
41 imprisoned, and (B) for any subsequent offense, may be fined not more
42 than one hundred thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than fifteen
43 years, or be both fined and imprisoned.

44 (3) For purposes of this subsection, "cannabis" has the same meaning
45 as provided in section [21a-420] 21a-240, as amended by this act.

46 (c) No person may knowingly possess drug paraphernalia in a drug
 47 factory situation as defined by subdivision (20) of section 21a-240 for the
 48 unlawful mixing, compounding or otherwise preparing any controlled
 49 substance for purposes of violation of this chapter.

50 (d) As an alternative to the sentences specified in [subsections]
 51 subparagraphs (A)(i), (B)(i) and (C)(i) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a)
 52 of this section and subsection (b) of this section, the court may sentence
 53 the person to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for an
 54 indeterminate term not to exceed three years or the maximum term
 55 specified for the offense, whichever is less, and, at any time within such
 56 indeterminate term and without regard to any other provision of law
 57 regarding minimum term of confinement, the Commissioner of
 58 Correction may release the convicted person so sentenced subject to
 59 such conditions as the commissioner may impose including, but not
 60 limited to, supervision by suitable authority. At any time during such
 61 indeterminate term, the Commissioner of Correction may revoke any
 62 such conditional release in the commissioner's discretion for violation
 63 of the conditions imposed and return the convicted person to a
 64 correctional institution."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	October 1, 2026	21a-277