

HOUSE No. 158

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Daniel J. Hunt

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to promote social equity and economic empowerment in the cannabis industry.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>	<i>3/11/2021</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>	<i>8/31/2021</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>12/14/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 158

By Mr. Hunt of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 158) of Daniel J. Hunt and Nick Collins for legislation to promote social equity and economic empowerment in the cannabis industry. Cannabis Policy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act to promote social equity and economic empowerment in the cannabis industry.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 64N of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
2 official edition, is hereby amended by adding the following definition:-

3 (c) “Social Equity Business”, a marijuana establishment eligible for the Social Equity
4 Program established in 935 CMR 500.105(17) or the Economic Empowerment Program as
5 defined in 935 CMR 500.101(1)(e) or otherwise determined by the commission.

6 (d) “Social Equity Program” a program administered by the Commission to provide
7 training and technical assistance to eligible applicants, potential applicants, and licensees from
8 communities that have previously been disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and
9 enforcement or to municipalities seeking to initiate or improve social equity programming on the
10 local level. This program includes a Social Equity Fund established and administered by the
11 Commission.

12 SECTION 2. Subsection (a^{1/2}) of Section 4 of chapter 94G of the General Laws, is hereby
13 amended by striking clause (ii) and by inserting in place thereof the following clauses:-

14 (ii) a schedule of application, license and renewal fees in an amount necessary to pay for
15 all regulation and enforcement costs of the commission including, but not limited to, the Social
16 Equity Program; provided that not less than 2% of the funds generated by said fees shall go
17 directly to funding the Social Equity Program through the Social Equity Fund; provided further
18 however that fees may be relative to the volume of business conducted or to be conducted by the
19 marijuana establishment; provided further that municipalities which create their own social
20 equity program in compliance with the Commission's Social Equity Program will have the
21 ability to apply to the fund.

22 SECTION 3. Section 16G of chapter 6A is hereby amended by inserting, following
23 subsection (n), the following:-

24 (o) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a Cannabis
25 Social Equity Loan Trust Fund for the purpose of making no-interest loans, forgivable loans, or
26 grants to economic empowerment and social equity program participants to encourage the full
27 participation of entrepreneurs from communities that have been disproportionately impacted by
28 previous marijuana prohibition and enforcement; provided further, however, that the fund
29 administrator shall develop policies and procedures to forgive all or a portion of these loans
30 subject to an analysis of anticipated revenues, demand, and lending projections. The fund shall
31 be administered by the secretary of housing and economic development. The cannabis control
32 commission shall promulgate guidelines governing the structure of the fund. The fund shall
33 consist of revenues collected by the commonwealth including: (1) up to 25 per cent of revenue

34 generated by the Cannabis Excise Tax; provided that said revenue shall be deposited in the fund
35 on a 1:1 basis relative to private funds received pursuant to (2); and (2) any funds from private
36 sources such as gifts, grants, and donations.