

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON CANNABIS POLICY
2025-2026 (194th) BILL SUMMARY**

Bill Number:	H.149
Title:	An Act related to cannabis retail licensees
Sponsor(s):	Rep. Mark J. Cusack (<i>Braintree</i>)
Hearing Date:	April 9, 2025
Reporting Deadline:	June 8, 2025
Prior History:	No prior history.
Similar Matters:	H.158 (Rep. Meghan K. Kilcoyne); H.160 (Rep. Samantha Montañó); H.171 (Rep. Dawne Shand); H.174 (Rep. Michael J. Soter); S.75 (Sen. William N. Brownsberger); S.78 (Sen. James B. Eldridge); S.99 (Sen. Jacob R. Oliveira)

CURRENT LAW:

Section 1 of Chapter 94G of the Massachusetts General Laws defines a licensee as a person or entity licensed by the Cannabis Control Commission to operate a marijuana business.

Section 16 of Chapter 94G prohibits any licensee from being granted more than three of each of the following marijuana license types: retailer, medical marijuana treatment center, product manufacturer, or cultivator, though a licensee is permitted to hold up to three of each type.

SUMMARY:

The bill amends sections 1 and 16 of chapter 94G to alter the existing limit on the number of cannabis licenses that a person or entity can control.

Sections 1 and 2 amend section 1 of chapter 94G to codify Cannabis Control Commission regulations interpreting the statutory term “licensee” to mean a person or entity with direct and/or indirect control of a license (935 CMR 500.002), except that it alters the qualification threshold by no longer considering whether the person makes major decisions or executes significant contracts.

Section 3 amends section 16 of chapter 94G to raise the limit on the number of retailers a licensee can control from three to six, except that in the first year following the passage of the bill the maximum number of retail licenses is four and in the second year following the passage of the bill the maximum number of retail licenses is five. An entity controlling three retail licenses may only

acquire additional licenses by gaining ownership or control over existing licenses. The CCC must give priority consideration to transfers involving licenses majority owned by social equity businesses, economic empowerment businesses, Minority Business Enterprises (MBE), Women Business Enterprises (WBE), and Veteran Business Enterprises (VBE).