

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON CANNABIS POLICY  
2025-2026 (194<sup>th</sup>) BILL SUMMARY**

**Bill Number:** H.163

**Title:** An Act to modernize the Massachusetts medical marijuana program

**Sponsor(s):** Rep. David M. Rogers (Cambridge)

**Hearing Date:** April 9, 2025

**Reporting Deadline:** June 8, 2025

**Prior History:**

2023-2024 (H.117): Reported favorably; New draft H.4409; Referred to Health Care Financing, recommended ought to pass; Referred to House Ways and Means

2021-2022 (H.173): Reported favorably; New draft H.4546; Referred to Health Care Financing, recommended ought to pass; Referred to House Ways and Means

2019-2020 (H.3539): Reported favorably; New draft H.4523; Referred to Health Care Financing

**Similar Matters:** None.

**CURRENT LAW:**

Section 1 of Chapter 94I of the Massachusetts General Laws limits access to medical marijuana to “card holders,” defined as those registered with the Cannabis Control Commission as patients, caregivers, or employees of medical marijuana treatment centers.

Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) regulations throughout 935 CMR 501.00 permit medical marijuana businesses to obtain or maintain a license only if they dispense, cultivate, and prepare marijuana. Licensees are not permitted to hold only retail or manufacturer or cultivation licenses, as they are with adult-use marijuana licensees. This limitation is commonly referred to as the vertical integration requirement.

The current initial and annual license fee for a medical marijuana license is \$50,000 (935 CMR 501.005). CCC regulations also require that medical marijuana license applicants demonstrate that they have capital resources of \$500,000 when they apply for their license and that they continue to demonstrate capital resources of \$400,000 for any subsequent applications (935 CMR 501.050(1)(d)).

**SUMMARY:**

Sections 1 through 4 of the bill amend the definition of card holder so that individuals registered in other states can purchase medical marijuana in Massachusetts.

Sections 5 through 8 of the bill amend Section 6 of Chapter 94I to expressly prohibit the vertical integration and capitalization requirements as conditions for licensure. Section 9 amends section 7 to cap license fees for medical marijuana licenses at \$1,000 and exempts social equity businesses from paying any fee for a license.

Sections 9 and 10 of the bill remove the requirement that the medical marijuana program be run in a revenue neutral manner from Section 7 of Chapter 94I and amend Section 14 of Chapter 94G so that money from the Marijuana Regulation Fund is expended for the implementation, administration, and enforcement of the medical marijuana program.