

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

Bill Number:	H.143
Title:	An Act regulating the sale of hemp products to protect public health and support farmers
Sponsor(s):	Rep. James C. Arena-DeRosa (Holliston)
Hearing Date:	May 7, 2025
Reporting Deadline:	July 6, 2025
Prior History:	None.
Similar Matters:	H.117 (Rep. Cusack, Agriculture); H.168 (Rep. Shand); H.173 (Rep. Soter); H.179 (Rep. Soter); H.357 (Rep. Day, Consumer Protection), S.54; (Sen. Comerford – Identical, Agriculture)

SUMMARY:

This bill creates a regulatory framework for the retail sale of hemp products by requiring the Cannabis Control Commission to establish standards for their sale, manufacture, packaging, and transportation.

This bill adds new definitions for hemp and hemp products to Chapter 94G, and non-ingestible hemp products to Chapter 94, while updating the definition of marijuana in 94G to exclude compliant hemp products. Hemp products are defined as products derived from non-industrial hemp that are available for commercial sale and intended for human consumption, including food products as well as flower and other inhalable products

Marijuana establishments may only sell hemp products that were cultivated and manufactured by an entity licensed by MDAR and in compliance with regulations set forth by the USDA. Hemp products may not contain more than 100 parts per million or 100 micrograms per gram of any cannabinoid not naturally produced by hemp plants above that concentration. The only cannabinoid products allowed to be transferred or sold are prescription drugs, marijuana and hemp products sold pursuant to chapter 94G, and non-ingestible hemp products. Retailers are prohibited from advertising non-ingestible hemp products as consumable or as having the ability to cause intoxication.

Local boards of health are required to conduct investigations and take samples of non-ingestible hemp products suspected to be non-compliant. The Department of Health may assist and coordinate if requested. A first violation will result in a written warning, and repeated violations

can be considered as grounds for suspension or revocation of any permit or license relating to the sale of food, alcohol, tobacco, cosmetics, or drugs. Local boards of health may also make rules and regulations to carry out enforcement, as well as establish civil administrative fines for repeated violations.

An excise tax of 10.75 percent is imposed on the retail sale of hemp products, to be deposited into the Hemp Product Education Fund – established by amending Section 14A of Chapter 94G – for the first five fiscal years after the law’s effective date, and in each year thereafter, to the General Fund.

The Hemp Product Education Fund will be expended for the implementation, administration, and enforcement of hemp laws by local boards of health.