

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

Bill Number: H.161

Title: An Act to facilitate labor peace among the cannabis workforce

Sponsor(s): Rep. Steven Owens (Watertown)

Hearing Date: July 22, 2025

Reporting Deadline: September 20, 2025

Prior History: 2023-24 (H.115): Reported favorably; New draft H.4413; Referred to HWM

Similar Matters: S.77 (Sen. Edwards -- Identical)

CURRENT LAW:

Subsection (a1/2)(xxix) of Section 4 of Chapter 94G of the Massachusetts General Laws requires the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) to promulgate advertising regulations. At minimum, those regulations must include restrictions enumerated in said subsection (a1/2)(xxix), including item (2) which requires a prohibition of advertising “by means of television, radio, internet, billboard or print publication unless at least 85 per cent of the audience is reasonably expected to be 21 years of age or older, as determined by reliable, up-to-date audience composition data”; item (12) which requires that regulations allow a marijuana establishment to sponsor an event as long as at least 85% of the audience is reasonably expected to be at least 21; and item (14) which requires that all advertisements for marijuana “contain a standard health warning developed by the department of public health[.]”

SUMMARY:

This bill would amend Chapter 94G of the Massachusetts General Laws to require as a condition of licensure and renewal that a marijuana establishment attest that it will “not interfere with union agents informing and communicating with employees about their labor rights.” The condition may be satisfied by submission of a labor peace agreement (LPA) between the marijuana establishment and a bona fide labor organization. The condition would not apply to small businesses as defined by the CCC, including businesses with 50 or fewer full-time employees or that have gross revenues of \$5 million or less.

