

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

Bill Number:	H.168
Title:	An Act requiring the Cannabis Control Commission to regulate intoxicating hemp products
Sponsor(s):	Rep. Dawne Shand (Newburyport)
Hearing Date:	May 7, 2025
Reporting Deadline:	July 6, 2025
Prior History:	None.
Similar Matters:	H.117 (Rep. Cusack, Agriculture); H.143 (Rep. Arena-DeRosa); H.173 (Rep. Soter); H.179 (Rep. Soter); H.357 (Rep. Day, Consumer Protection); S.54 (Sen. Comerford – Agriculture)

SUMMARY:

This bill amends Chapter 94G by adding a new section 23(b) to regulate hemp-derived cannabinoid products or THCA, requiring a hemp endorsement from the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) for their sale and transfer.

The bill further amends Chapter 94G by adding section 23(a) and creating new definitions for a variety of terms related to the regulation of hemp products, including definitions for CBD, cannabinoids, Delta-8 THC, Delta-9 THC, and isomers, among others. “Hemp-derived cannabinoid product” is defined as a product derived from hemp and intended for human consumption that contains more than .5 milligrams of THC per serving and 2.5 milligrams per multi-serving package. THC is broadly defined to include all naturally, synthetically, or artificially derived forms of THC, including Delta-8 and other THC isomers and analogs, as well as any cannabinoid with an intoxicating or psychoactive effect and any other compound chemically similar to THC.

The bill requires that all THC, CBD, hemp and hemp derived cannabinoids be tested by an independent testing laboratory licensed by the CCC.

The CCC must promulgate regulations to implement the abovementioned sections.

The new section is not to be construed to limit the cultivation and production of hemp pursuant to sections 116-123, nor to prevent the interstate transportation of hemp or hemp-derived products in compliance with federal law.

Section 24(b) states that a violation of section 23(b) will be punished by imprisonment for not more than 1 year in a house of correction or by a fine of not more than \$25,000 per day, or by both.