

# Minnesota Unveils First Draft of Recreational Cannabis Rules

## Minnesota's Office of Cannabis Management Releases Draft Rules for Public Feedback

The Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) has released the first draft of proposed rules for the state's newly legalized cannabis industry. This preliminary draft, made available to the public in PDF format, is an early step in the rulemaking process and is open for feedback from July 31 to August 30.

### Public Feedback and Rulemaking Process

The OCM is encouraging residents, stakeholders, and interested parties to review the draft rules and submit their feedback using a designated form. This engagement is crucial as the OCM seeks to refine and finalize the regulations governing the cannabis industry in Minnesota.

"This is not the official rules package, but rather a first draft in advance of the public comment period expected later this fall," an OCM spokesperson explained. The draft rules reflect input gathered from various sources, including surveys, meetings, and discussions that have been ongoing since last fall, along with a review of cannabis regulations from other states.

### Areas of Focus in the Draft Rules

The proposed regulations cover a broad spectrum of issues critical to the establishment and operation of the cannabis industry in Minnesota. Key areas addressed include:

**Licensing:** Details on license types, application procedures, required disclosures, and criteria for disqualification, such as felony convictions. The draft also outlines limitations on the number of licenses an entity can hold.

**Social Equity Considerations:** Provisions aimed at promoting equitable participation in the cannabis industry, addressing disparities and supporting communities disproportionately affected by past cannabis prohibitions.

**Manufacturing and Retail:** Regulations for the operation of cannabis facilities, including safety standards and operational protocols.

**Packaging and Labeling:** Guidelines to ensure that cannabis products are safely and accurately labeled, protecting consumers and aiding regulatory compliance.

**Testing:** Standards for laboratory approval, sampling procedures, and testing protocols to ensure product safety and consistency.

**Expedited Complaint Process:** A streamlined process for addressing complaints, particularly for local governments dealing with industry-related issues.

**Integrated Tracking and Inventory System:** A comprehensive system for tracking cannabis products from seed to sale, enhancing transparency and accountability.

**Environmental Controls:** Rules concerning odor limits, water and energy use, and waste disposal, emphasizing sustainable practices within the industry.

**Use of Pesticides and Fertilizers:** Regulations to control the use of agricultural chemicals in cannabis cultivation, ensuring environmental and consumer safety.

**Medical Cannabis and Patient Registry:** Rules governing the medical cannabis program, including patient registration and access to medical cannabis products.

### **Next Steps in the Rulemaking Process**

The draft rules are subject to change as the OCM continues through the formal rulemaking process. The office plans to publish a notice of intent to adopt rules in the State Register later this year, which will trigger a 30-day formal comment period. This period will provide another opportunity for public input before the rules are finalized.

### **Preparing for Full Implementation**

The release of these draft rules marks a significant milestone as Minnesota moves toward full implementation of its legal cannabis market, almost exactly one year after legalizing adult-use cannabis. The OCM's approach highlights the importance of public engagement and thorough review in crafting regulations that balance industry growth with public health and safety considerations.

Stakeholders and interested parties are encouraged to visit the OCM website regularly for updates and to participate actively in the rulemaking process.

Email: [info@cannabisriskmanager.com](mailto:info@cannabisriskmanager.com) | Phone: +415-226-4060

© Copyright 2025 Cannabis Risk Manager. All Rights Reserved