

# Act 164: A law relating to the regulation of cannabis

## What Towns Need to Know

Municipalities must vote to **opt in** to allow adult-use cannabis retail either at an annual or special meeting.



**Before voting**, towns have ample time to evaluate any local unintended consequences.

- ✓ The State Cannabis Control Board, who will oversee and regulate adult-use cannabis, has not yet been formed as of 12/2020, so advertising and other regulations are still unknown. Towns should wait for the CCB's regulations to be known before voting so that citizens understand details of what they are voting on.
- ✓ Retail licenses will not be issued until October 2022.
- ✓ Before scheduling a vote, town decision-makers and community members need time to hear from knowledgeable experts who can discuss the risks of cannabis use and Act 164's unintended consequences.

Municipalities considering a vote to opt in are encouraged to **first create a local Cannabis Control Commission** to develop additional limited regulations and requirements but may not directly collect local license fees or separately levy taxes specifically for cannabis sales.

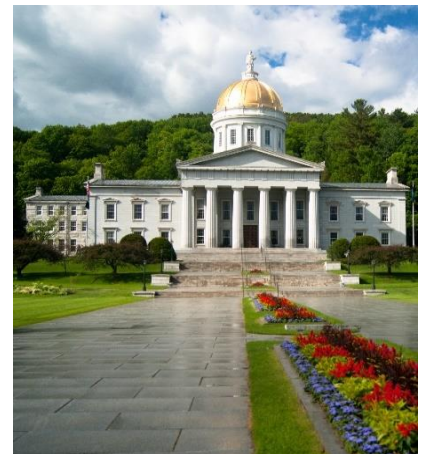
## Law Overview: A Prevention Lens

A cannabis retailer **must receive local approval** before receiving a state license.

The law establishes a **3-member Cannabis Control Board (CCB)** who will oversee and regulate adult-use cannabis beginning on January 19, 2021. The CCB will appoint an Executive Director in February of 2021. All final rules will be adopted by March of 2022 and the CCB will start issuing retail licenses in October 2022.

A **12-member CCB Advisory Committee** will be appointed before May 1, 2021, including experts in public health, substance misuse, and municipal issues.

- ✓ Policies regarding advertising and packaging will be determined by the CCB.
- ✓ Only adults over 21 will be allowed entry, sale, and employment at cannabis establishments.
- ✓ Sale of non-flavored cannabis vaping products are permitted.
- ✓ Current ban on consumption of cannabis in public remains.



**For more information:**  
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# Make Prevention a Priority

## Action

## Considerations & Timeline

**Conduct community research and hold public hearing**

**Now –2021**

Collaborate with public health, prevention experts, law enforcement, medical professionals and emergency services to explore unintended consequences and needed state and local education and policies.

Explore potential actions municipality can take to promote youth prevention under 24 V.S.A. § 4414 (zoning) and 24 V.S.A. § 2291 (public nuisance).

**Establish local safeguards**

**Now - 2021**

Create a local Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) to establish local regulations.

Recruit a prevention specialist as part of CCC.

**If desired, initiate a town vote**

**By 2022**

Hold a vote if recommended by local CCC with rules and regulations defined and ready to go.

**Give input to Cannabis Control Board as members develop the adult-use state framework**

**By April 2021**

CCB recommends advertising restrictions to General Assembly.

**By December 31, 2021**

Law enforcement must receive 16 hours of Advanced Roadside Impaired Enforcement Training.

**By January 2022**

CCB will decide whether to expand licenses to include delivery, craft cooperative and special events.

**By March 2022**

CCB will adopt rules regarding packaging and labeling and flyer contents to be displayed in retail spaces.

Encourage CCB to adopt formal mechanism to fund substance misuse prevention.

Advocate for data collection and reporting to improve substance misuse prevention efforts.



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