



TOWN OF DIGHTON BOARD OF HEALTH

REGULATIONS TO ENSURE THE SANITARY AND SAFE OPERATION OF MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS AND THE SALE OF MARIJUANA

A. Statement of Purpose and Authority:

Whereas, Massachusetts voters approved the regulation of the use and distribution of marijuana not medically prescribed on November 8, 2016 pursuant to Chapter 344 of the Acts of 2016, as amended by Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017, an Act to Ensure Safe Access to Marijuana; and

Whereas, the prevention of the illegal sale and use of marijuana, particularly involving youth is a public health priority; and

Whereas, the state regulation at 935 CMR 500.000 allows for lawful local oversight and regulation, including local fee requirements; and

Whereas, local oversight and inspection of marijuana establishments is within the legal authority of local boards of health to protect public health, safety and welfare; and

Whereas the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court had held that “. . . the right to engage in business must yield to the paramount right of government to protect public health by any rational means.”

Therefore, in furtherance of its mission to protect, promote, and preserve the health and well-being of all Dighton residents and pursuant to the authority granted to it pursuant to M.G.L. c. 111, §31, the Board of Health of Dighton enacts Regulations to Ensure the Sanitary and Safe Operations of Marijuana Establishments and the Sale of Marijuana in the Town of Dighton as follows.

B. Definitions:

Unless otherwise indicated, terms used throughout these regulations shall be defined as these are in 935 CMR 500.000 and in General Law, Chapter 94, §1.

In addition, for the purposes of these regulations, the following words shall have the following meanings:

Adult-only retail tobacco store: An establishment that is not required to possess a retail food permit whose primary purpose is to sell or offer for sale but not for resale, tobacco products and tobacco paraphernalia, in which the sale of other products or offer of services is merely incidental, and in which the entry of persons under the minimum legal sales age is prohibited at all times, and

maintains a valid permit for the retail sale of tobacco products as required to be issued by the Dighton Board of Health.

Board of Health: Town of Dighton Board of Health and its designated Board of Health Agents.

Board of Health Agent: The Director of Public Health and any town employee designated by the Board of Health, which may include board of health staff, law enforcement officers, fire officials and code enforcement officials.

Business Agent: An individual who has been designated by the owner or operator of any marijuana establishment to be the manager or otherwise in charge of said establishment.

Edible Marijuana Products: A marijuana product that is to be consumed by humans by eating or drinking.

Marijuana: All parts of any plant of the genus cannabis, not excepted below and whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; and resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of the plant, its seeds or resin including tetrahydrocannabinol as defined in section 1 of chapter 94C of the General Laws.

“Marijuana” shall not include the mature stalks of the plant, fiber produced from the stalks, oil, or cake made from the seeds of the plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of the mature stalks, fiber, oil, or cake made from the seeds of the plant or the sterilized seed of the plant that is incapable of germination; hemp; or the weight of any other ingredient combined with marijuana to prepare topical or oral administrations, food, drink or other products.

Marijuana Accessories: Equipment, products, devices or materials of any kind that are intended or designed for use in ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing marijuana into the human body.

Marijuana Establishment: A marijuana cultivator, marijuana testing facility, marijuana product manufacturer, marijuana retailer or any other type of marijuana-related business licensed by the Cannabis Control Commission pursuant to 935 CMR 500.050 as a marijuana cultivator, craft marijuana cooperative, marijuana product manufacturer, independent marijuana testing laboratory, storefront marijuana retailer, delivery-only marijuana retailer, marijuana primary social consumption establishment, marijuana mixed-use social consumption establishment, marijuana research facility, marijuana transporter and marijuana micro-business.

Marijuana Products: Products that have been manufactured and contain marijuana or an extract from marijuana, including concentrated forms of marijuana and products composed of marijuana and other ingredients that are intended for use or consumption, including edible products, beverages, topical products, ointments, oils and tinctures.

Minimum Legal Sales Age: The age an individual must be before that individual can be sold a marijuana product in the municipality.

Operating Permit Holder: Any person engaged in the cultivation, sale, distribution or delivery of marijuana who applies for and receives an operation permit, or any person who is required to apply for an operation permit pursuant to these regulations, or his or her business agent.

Non-Residential Roll-Your-Own (RYO) Machine: A mechanical device made available for use (including to an individual who produces rolled marijuana products solely for the individual's own personal consumption or use) that can make rolled marijuana products. RYO machines located in private homes used for solely personal consumption are not Non-Residential RYO machines.

Person: Any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind, including but not limited to an owner, operator, manager, proprietor or person in charge of any establishment, business, cultivation property or retail store.

Self-Service Displays: Any display from which customers may select marijuana or a marijuana-infused product without assistance from an establishment.

Vending Machine: Any automated or mechanical self-service device which upon insertion of money, tokens or any other form of payment, dispenses or makes marijuana products.

C. Marijuana Sales to Persons Under the Minimum Legal Sales Age Prohibited:

1. No person shall sell marijuana or permit marijuana, as defined therein, to be sold to a person under the minimum legal sales age; or give marijuana products as defined herein, to a person under the minimum legal sales age. The minimum legal sales age in the Town of Dighton is 21 years.
2. Each person selling or distributing marijuana products as defined herein, shall verify the age of the purchaser by means of a valid government-issued photographic identification containing the bearer's date of birth that the purchaser is 21 years of age or older.
3. All retail sales of marijuana products shall be face-to-face between the seller and the buyer and occur at the permitted location unless and until delivery of adult-use marijuana products is authorized and licensed under state regulation and then, in strict compliance with all applicable rules and regulations as well as the age limitation set forth herein.

D. Marijuana Operating Permit:

1. No person shall sell, cultivate, deliver or otherwise commercially distribute marijuana products, as defined herein, within the Town of Dighton without first obtaining an Marijuana Operating Permit issued annually by the Dighton Board of Health. Only owners of establishments with a permanent, non-mobile location in the Town of Dighton are eligible to apply for an operating permit at the specified location in the Town of Dighton.

A marijuana delivery-only establishment, if authorized and licensed under state regulation shall not be required to have a permanent, non-mobile location, but shall have an in-state permanent business office address and contact information available. The establishment must share information about the current location and destination of its employees with the Dighton Board of Health.

2. No person shall gift marijuana or marijuana products to a consumer contingent upon the sale of any other product.
3. No person shall accept or redeem, offer to accept or redeem, or cause or hire any person to accept or redeem or offer to accept or redeem any coupon that provides any marijuana product without charge.
4. As part of the Marijuana Operating Permit application process, the applicant will be provided with the Town of Dighton Regulations. Regulations must be kept on premises and available upon request. Each applicant is required to sign a statement declaring that the applicant has read said regulations and that the applicant is responsible for instructing all employees who will be responsible for marijuana sales regarding federal, state and local laws regarding the sale of marijuana and these regulations.
5. Each applicant who sells, cultivates, delivers or otherwise distributes marijuana is required to provide proof of a current license issued by the Cannabis Control Commission before a Marijuana Operating Permit can be issued.
6. A separate Marijuana Operating Permit, displayed conspicuously, is required for each marijuana establishment. The fee for which shall be determined by the Dighton Board of Health annually.
7. A Marijuana Operating Permit is non-transferable. A new owner of a marijuana establishment must apply for a new permit.
8. Issuance of an Marijuana Operating Permit shall be conditioned on an applicant's consent to unannounced, periodic inspection of his/her marijuana establishment, including any business conducted off-site, to ensure compliance with this regulation.
9. A Marijuana Operating Permit will not be renewed if the permit holder has failed to pay all fines issued and the time to appeal the fines has expired and/or the permit holder has not satisfied any outstanding permit suspensions.
10. A Marijuana Operating Permit may be subject to non-renewal if the establishment has sold a marijuana product to a person under the minimum legal sales age at least two times within the previous permit year and the time to appeal has expired. The permit holder may request a hearing pursuant to this regulation prior to non-renewal.
11. No person under age 21 shall be permitted to enter an establishment with a Marijuana Operating Permit except those individuals in possession of a registration card demonstrating that the individual is a registered qualifying patient with the Medical Use of Marijuana Program if the establishment is co-located with a medical marijuana treatment center.

12. A retail marijuana establishment shall primarily sell marijuana and marijuana accessories. The sale of other products must be merely incidental. A retail marijuana establishment is prohibited from applying for or otherwise holding tobacco sales permit. A retail marijuana establishment is also prohibited from holding a liquor license or selling or distributing any alcoholic beverage in any form.
13. A Marijuana Operating Permit shall not be renewed if any taxes are owed to the Town of Dighton.
14. All Marijuana Operating Permits expire annually on December 31st and renewals need to be submitted to the Board of Health by December 1st of each year.

E. Incorporation of 105 CMR 500.000 and 105 CMR 590.000:

The manufacture of all edible marijuana products and food products containing marijuana shall be conducted in a state-licensed marijuana manufacturing facility and in accordance with all applicable state regulations. Marijuana establishments and agents shall comply with 105 CMR 500.000, “Good Manufacturing Practices for Food” and 105 CMR 590.000, “Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments” relative to edible marijuana products.

F. Incorporation of 935 CMR 500.00:

Marijuana establishments and agents shall comply with 935 CMR 500.000.

G. Out-of-Package Sales:

The sale or distribution of edible marijuana products in any form other than an original factory-wrapped package is prohibited, including the repackaging or dispensing of any edible marijuana product for retail sale.

H. Self-Service Displays:

All self-service displays of marijuana products are prohibited.

I. Vending Machines:

All vending machines containing marijuana products are prohibited.

J. Marijuana Accessories:

Marijuana accessories, as defined herein, shall only be sold in marijuana establishments and adult-only tobacco stores as defined herein.

K. Compliance with All Laws:

1. All cultivation, processing, manufacturing, delivery, sale and use of marijuana shall be conducted in compliance with all laws, ordinances, regulation or policies applicable to similar activities. This shall include, but not be limited to compliance with food service permit requirements, secondhand smoke regulations, electronic cigarette regulations, nuisance laws and all requirements associated with zoning and other local permitting.
2. In no instance shall a Marijuana Operating Permit be issued to any establishment within one thousand (1000) feet of the grounds of or within a public or private school where children attend classes in preschool programs, kindergarten programs or grades one (1) to twelve (12), inclusive, on a school bus, or in any youth center. The one thousand (1000) foot distance shall be measured in a straight line from the nearest point of the facility in question to the nearest point of the proposed Marijuana Establishment.
3. The cultivation, processing, manufacturing, delivery, sale and use of marijuana shall not exempt any person or entity from complying with all state and local laws, ordinances, bylaws, regulations and policies. Violation of any other such law shall constitute a violation of these regulations and be subject to the fines and penalties described herein. Nothing in these regulations gives any immunity under federal law or poses an obstacle to federal enforcement of federal law.
4. A marijuana establishment shall submit a security plan for review to the Dighton Board of Health and Dighton Police Department detailing all security measures taken to ensure patient, consumer and community safety and eliminate unauthorized access to the premises.
5. The Dighton Board of Health shall require the distribution of educational materials in marijuana establishments.

L. Enforcement and Penalties:

1. Authority to inspect marijuana establishments for compliance and to enforce this regulation shall be held by the Dighton Board of Health, its designees, and the Dighton Police Department.
2. Any person may register a complaint under this regulation to initiate an investigation and enforcement with the Dighton Board of Health and its designees. Unscheduled compliance inspections shall be conducted at a minimum of four inspections annually.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the Marijuana Operation Permit holder and/or business agent to ensure compliance with all applicable sections of this regulation. Any marijuana establishment found to be in violation of the provisions of these regulations shall receive: a written warning, citation, fine, suspension of the Marijuana Operation Permit, and/or revocation of the Marijuana Operation Permit. Any business with a revoked Permit cannot reapply for a Permit for a period of one year.

4. Any permit holder or any person or entity charged with violation of any provision of this regulation shall receive a notice of violation from the Dighton Board of Health or its designated agent. Unless waived by the permit holder, the Board of Health shall conduct a hearing to determine the facts of the violation, the appropriate corrective actions, the terms of suspension, if any, and/or issue a permit revocation order.
5. Prior to issuing any suspension or revocation, the Dighton Board of Health shall provide notice of the intent to suspend or revoke a permit. Notice shall contain the reasons for the intent to suspend or revoke and establish a time and date for a hearing which date shall be no earlier than 7 days after the date of said notice. The permit holder shall have an opportunity to be heard at said hearing and shall be notified of the Board of Health's decision in writing. After the hearing, the Dighton Board of Health may suspend or revoke the permit if the Board of Health finds that a violation of this regulation occurred.
6. Whoever violated any provisions of this regulation may be penalized by the non-criminal method of disposition as provided in General Laws Chapter 40, Section 21D.
7. Each day any violation exists shall be deemed to be a separate offense.

M. Variances:

1. A variance from these regulations may be requested in writing to the Dighton Board of Health. A variance may be granted by the Dighton Board of Health after a public hearing. The granting of a variance shall not in any way impair public health, public safety, or the environment.
2. The Board of Health may impose any conditions, safeguards and other limitations on a variance when it deems it appropriate to protect public health, public safety, or the environment.

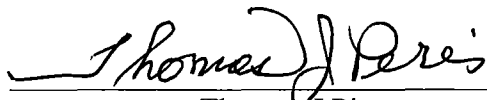
N. Severability:

If any provision of this regulation is declared invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall not be affected thereby but shall continue in full force and effect.

O. Effective Date:

These regulations shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Dighton Board of Health.

Date 12/04/2018



 Thomas J Pires



 Matthew Tanis



 Kevin Bernardo

TOWN CLERK
 DIGTON, MA

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A TRUE COPY ATTEST



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