

ALLIANCE FOR CANNABIS EQUITY

103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRIORITIES

The Alliance for Cannabis Equity includes community advocates, entrepreneurs, trade associations, and other stakeholders fighting for cannabis equity across the State of Illinois. We are dedicated to repairing the harms from the War on Drugs, and ensuring equity in the cannabis industry.

We have identified a path forward for General Session that includes revising & advancing items from the previous cannabis omnibus, SB1599, along with providing support for medical patients & regulating social consumption spaces. We strongly request support for the following priorities in 2024:

Employee Badging

- Ensure qualified individuals are not denied the opportunity to become a principal officer or agent of a cannabis business establishment on the sole basis of a criminal conviction.
- Standardizing the badging process across agencies will ensure we have an expedited, uniform online application process for prospective workers.

Expanding Medical Supply & Supporting Social Equity Dispensaries

- Provide tax relief to registered IL medical cannabis patients at any dispensary in the state, not only at the 55 medical dispensaries.
- This relief will allow patients to access discounted medicine from stores closest to them, while also promoting the incoming Social Equity Dispensaries.

Increasing Medical Patient Protections

- Allow physical examinations to be performed using telemedicine.
- Remove “odor-proof container” from the CRTA, reducing risk of criminalization for patients.
- Increase patient plant count limit from 5 plants.

Social Consumption Spaces

- Expand licenses for cannabis lounges and temporary events, where cannabis can be consumed. Currently, only homeowners can legally consume cannabis.
- Gives municipalities flexibility over consumption businesses, including the right to license or disallow them.

SB 125: Cannabis In Vehicle

Senator Rachel Ventura

- Although cannabis is legal, Law Enforcement is still allowed to use the odor of raw cannabis as probable cause to stop & search drivers.
- Updating packaging rules & stopping Law Enforcement from using cannabis odor as sole reason for probable cause, will reduce unnecessary interactions with LE.

Items for Further Consideration

Regulatory Consolidation:

- **STREAMLINE:** Consolidate authority of cannabis programs from separate agencies to establish a stronger foundation and more streamlined processes for current and future cannabis programs to succeed.
- **TRANSPARENCY:** Develop a uniform oversight authority to increase accountability and transparency of Illinois' cannabis program.

Delta-8 Regulation

- **Regulation, not Prohibition:** Craft evidence-based policies with key stakeholders and subject matter experts to ensure the hemp industry is safe for consumers and accessible to small businesses.

On behalf of The Alliance for Cannabis Equity and our aligned community partners, we welcome any and all feedback on cannabis legislation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Alliance at Info@CannabisEquityIL.org, Doug@CannabisEquityIL.org, Peter@CannabisEquityIL.org.

Signed,

Cannabis Equity IL Coalition
Chicago NORML
Equity And Transformation
Hemp For Hoods
Herb & Planning Associates
Gap Gyrllz & Gyz Consortium
Illinois Equity Staffing
Illinois Minority Cannabis Business Organization

Illinois Women in Cannabis
Modern Compassionate Care
North Star Minority Cannabis Association
Social Equity Empowerment Network
South & West Side Coalition for Commerce
Team Human Cultivation
United Latino Cannabis Industry Alliance

