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H.B. 611
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Callender and Stewart

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SUMMARY

- Establishes the paired cultivator license, its eligibility requirements, authorized activities, and restrictions under the Division of Cannabis Control (DCC).
- Requires DCC to issue the paired cultivator license and a dispensary license to applicants meeting the bill's requirements no later than 90 days after the effective date of the bill.
- Expands the authority of a laboratory license holder to obtain adult-use and medical marijuana by adding licensed paired cultivators to the licensees from which the marijuana may be obtained.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Marijuana licenses

The bill creates the paired cultivator license and specifically targets marijuana processers that lack cultivation or dispensary operations. It mandates the Division of Cannabis Control (DCC) to issue, within 90 days of the bill's effective date, one retail dispensary and one paired cultivator license to marijuana processors that were in operation on or before December 7, 2023, and have no ownership ties to other cultivators. The application for each license must designate a location for the certificate of operation.[1]

Existing licenses

Under continuing law, DCC issues four primary categories of commercial licenses for the handling of adult-use and medical marijuana:

[1] R.C. 3796.01(A)(26) and 3796.25(A) and (B).

- Cultivator licenses (authorized to cultivate adult-use and medical marijuana for sale to processors); [2]
- Processor licenses (authorized to process adult-use and medical marijuana for sale at dispensaries); [3]
- Retail dispensary licenses (authorized to dispense or sell adult-use and medical marijuana to patients and consumers); [4]
- Laboratory licenses (authorized to test adult-use and medical marijuana for safety and potency).[5]

Under continuing law, "adult-use marijuana" means marijuana that is cultivated, processed, dispensed, or tested for, or possessed or used by, an individual who is at least 21 years of age. "Medical marijuana" means marijuana that is cultivated, processed, dispensed, tested, possessed, or used for a medical purpose.[6]

Paired cultivator license

Eligibility for paired cultivator and retail dispensary licenses

Under the bill, to qualify to receive a paired cultivator license and a retail dispensary license, applicants must meet the following conditions:

- The applicant is a licensed marijuana processor that was issued a processor license on or before December 7, 2023;
- The applicant has not and does not transfer their processor license or control of processing operations at any point after December 7, 2023, and before the date the respective license is issued;
- The applicant does not have any common ownership or control with a licensed cultivator.[7]

Authorized activities

The bill states that the holder of a current and valid paired cultivator license may do any of the following:

- Cultivate adult-use marijuana and medical marijuana;
- Distribute, transfer, and sell adult-use marijuana and medical marijuana to other license holders;

[2] R.C. 3796.18, not in the bill.

[3] R.C. 3796.19, not in the bill.

[4] R.C. 3796.20, not in the bill.

[5] R.C. 3796.21, not in the bill.

[6] R.C. 3796.01(A)(2), (8), and (9).

[7] R.C. 3796.25(B).

- Acquire seeds, clones, plants, and other genetic materials.[8]

Cultivating restriction

The bill states that a licensed paired cultivator must not cultivate adult-use marijuana or medical marijuana for personal, family, or household use under the license.[9]

Cultivation area

The bill establishes specific operational parameters for newly licensed paired cultivators. A licensed paired cultivator may operate a cultivation area no larger than 5,000 square feet. A licensed paired cultivator may request and receive one or more expansions to their cultivation area, so long as the resulting total cultivation area, including all expansions, does not exceed the 5,000 square feet limit.[10]

Laboratory license

The bill expands the authority of a laboratory license holder to obtain adult-use and medical marijuana by adding licensed paired cultivators to the licensees from which the marijuana may be obtained. Current law only authorizes procurement from licensed cultivators, processors, and dispensaries.[11]

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	11-25-25
Reported, H. Judiciary	06-10-26
Passed House (87-5)	06-10-26

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[8] R.C. 3796.25(C).

[9] R.C. 3796.25(D).

[10] R.C. 3796.25(E).

[11] R.C. 3796.21(A)(1).