

**DEPARTMENT OF
CANNABIS
REGULATION**

CANNABIS REGULATION
COMMISSION

THRYERIS MASON
PRESIDENT

DAVID NASH
VICE-PRESIDENT

ANTON FARMBY
ADAM BIERMAN

JOSIE TREVIZO
COMMISSION EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT
(213) 978-0738

City of Los Angeles
CALIFORNIA



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
221 N. FIGUEROA STREET,
SUITE 1245
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
(213) 978-0738

MICHELLE GARAKIAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JASON KILLEEN
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

VACANT
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

<http://cannabis.lacity.gov>

August 29, 2025

Council File 20-1125-S1

The Honorable City Council
City of Los Angeles
City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, California 90012

Attention: Government Operations Committee

PRESENTATION ON DCR'S RECOMMENDED LAND USE AMENDMENTS

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Cannabis Regulation respectfully submits this presentation prepared for discussion at a future committee meeting.

The below recommendations were based on procedural experiences with applicants and licensees. DCR awaits direction from the Chair and Committee.

Any further questions on this matter should be referred to Assistant Executive Director, Jason Killeen at Jason.Killeen@lacity.org.

JASON KILLEEN
Assistant Executive Director

DCR's Proposed Amendments

Article 5, Chapter 10 of the LAMC Concerning Cannabis Land Use Restrictions

Council File [20-1125-S1](#)



CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF™

**CANNABIS
REGULATION**

Executive Summary



CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF

**CANNABIS
REGULATION**

Goals of the Proposed Amendments:

- Align local distancing requirements with State law
- Streamline and modernize land use restrictions
- Expand access to viable business locations
- Support Social Equity applicants
- Empower zoning interpretations to allow flexibility

These amendments are modifications to the existing language within sections of LAMC 105.00 as follows:

- Section [105.01](#) (Definitions)
- Section [105.02](#) (Location Restrictions)
- Section [105.04](#) (Zoning Authority)

Background



CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF

**CANNABIS
REGULATION**

In December 2017, the Los Angeles City Council adopted [Ordinance No. 185,345](#), establishing local regulations for commercial cannabis activity. These included rigid **land use restrictions** such as sensitive-use buffers, zoning limitations, and definitions for cannabis-related terms.

In the years since, several challenges emerged:

- **Inconsistencies** between City and State law created permitting delays
- Outdated definitions (like those for “EMMD”) led to unnecessary restrictions
- Sensitive-use buffers and zoning constraints **limited property availability**, disproportionately affecting equity applicants and small operators making compliant real estate scarce and expensive.

Background Continued



CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF

**CANNABIS
REGULATION**

In response, the Department of Cannabis Regulation (DCR) initiated **policy reforms** to modernize these rules, beginning with **minor amendments in 2019**, and now culminating in the April 2025 proposal. This set of amendments is designed to:

- **Align local rules with State law** (including updates from [SB 1186](#) and other recent changes)
- **Expand access to viable business locations**, particularly for Social Equity Applicants
- **Simplify the process** for annual licensing and land use approval
- And **grant more flexibility** to the Zoning Administrator to interpret cannabis uses across zones

This proposal includes changes to Sections **105.01 (Definitions)**, **105.02 (Location & Restrictions)**, and **105.04 (Zoning Authority)** of the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

Existing Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Affected By Upcoming Deadline



CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF

**CANNABIS
REGULATION**

<u>Council District</u>	<u># of Businesses Affected</u>
2	3
3	3
4	9
5	2
6	4
7	2
8	2

<u>Council District</u>	<u># of Businesses Affected</u>
9	1
10	7
12	3
13	5
14	12
15	1

A total of **54** Existing Medical Marijuana Dispensaries would be out of compliance starting on January 1, 2026 if not grandfathered in.

Section 105.01: Definitions Description & Recommendations



CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF

**CANNABIS
REGULATION**

DCR proposes to delete obsolete definitions (e.g., Alcoholism or Drug Abuse Recovery or Treatment Facility, EMMD, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Public Park) to simplify “cannabis” and “sensitive use” definitions, and add “Licensee.”

The proposed recommendations do the following:

- Removes three sensitive-use categories
- Clarifies definitions to match State and City frameworks
- Makes list of sensitive sites publicly sourced

DCR’s rationale is to remove barriers created by out-of-date and/or overly broad definitions and to streamline permitting; ensuring clarity and consistency with other codes and State standards.

Section 105.02 – Location & Requirements

Description



CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF

**CANNABIS
REGULATION**

DCR's Proposed Changes & Implications:

- **Buffer Distance:** Reduced from 700 ft to 600 ft, consistent with State law
- **Zoning Expansion:** Retailers can operate in most commercial and hybrid industrial zones
- **Certificate of Occupancy (C of O):** Establishes cannabis eligibility if consistent with site history, removing need for explicit zone listing
- **Proximity Rules:** Up to 3 additional licenses allowed within buffer of existing licensed retailer
- **Measurement Clarification:** Buffer measured from property line to nearest sensitive-use site accessible to the public

Section 105.02 – Location & Requirements Recommendations



CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF

**CANNABIS
REGULATION**

DCR's Rationale:

- Streamlines the land use and permitting process for applicants
- Reduces overly burdensome regulatory restrictions
- Increases available real estate, especially in underserved areas
- Supports Social Equity Program by expanding opportunity and reducing time/cost barriers
- Creates a flexible system for determining eligibility

Section 105.04 – Zoning Authority Description & Recommendations



CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF
**CANNABIS
REGULATION**

DCR Recommendations:

- Grant authority to Zoning Administrator to:
 - Interpret cannabis use classification
 - Accept Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) as a land use eligibility

Changes & Impact:

- Creates path for legal use even if zone doesn't list cannabis
- Empowers interpretations and flexibility

Rationale:

- Addresses absence of cannabis-specific zoning
- Avoids legislative delays for approvals
- Supports compliance and efficient permitting

Conclusion



CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF

**CANNABIS
REGULATION**

DCR's recommended amendments will do the following:

- Eliminate barriers licensed commercial cannabis businesses face when navigating other City permitting processes
- Align the distancing measurements with State law; and,
- Expand the number of compliant parcels to all licensed commercial cannabis businesses pursuing local permits to obtain an operating permit

Overall, these changes will make the City more commercial cannabis business friendly.