PA 23-166—sHB 6700
General Law Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING HEMP, THE ADULT-USE CANNABIS MARKET AND WEATHER DISASTER RELIEF

SUMMARY: This act allows for sales of manufacturer hemp products (intended for human consumption) by licensed medical marijuana dispensary facilities, cannabis retailers, and hybrid retailers (i.e., selling recreational cannabis and medical marijuana).

The act also eliminates the requirement that each dispensary facility annually give the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) data on the types, mixtures, and dosages of medical marijuana the facility dispenses.

PA 22-118, § 314, provided grants of up to $7 million for farmland restoration and climate resiliency. This act also allows these grants to be used for weather disaster relief.

PA 23-79, among other things, (1) adds cannabis labeling and packaging requirements and prohibits packages from being similar to products that do not contain cannabis (§ 41) and (2) prohibits manufacturer hemp products containing synthetic cannabinoids from being offered for sale; allows the DCP commissioner to summarily suspend credentials for certain unauthorized sales; requires certain warnings and disclosures on manufacturer hemp; and makes it a Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act violation to violate certain manufacturer hemp provisions (§ 45). This act delays the effective date for these provisions from July 1, 2023, to October 1, 2023.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, except the provisions on grants and effective dates are effective upon passage.

Dispensary, Retailer, and Hybrid Retailer Sales

Prior law prohibited dispensary facilities, cannabis retailers, and hybrid retailers from selling or distributing hemp or hemp products. The act narrows the prohibition to only apply to producer hemp products, which allows these entities to sell or distribute manufacturer hemp products under certain conditions.

Under the act, manufacturer hemp products may be sold within a licensed dispensary facility, retailer, or hybrid retailer if the products are:

1. physically separated from the medical marijuana or cannabis in the display area;
2. displayed with a DCP-approved sign;
3. tested by a laboratory, which may be outside Connecticut, that meets the standards for accreditation and testing, and sampling methods, as required for an independent testing laboratory;
4. clearly labeled to distinguish them as a manufacturer hemp product that is

not cannabis or medical marijuana and is subject to different testing standards than cannabis or medical marijuana; and

5. sold in accordance with the medical marijuana and cannabis laws and regulations.

BACKGROUND

Manufacturer Hemp Product

By law, "manufacturer hemp product" is a commodity manufactured from the hemp plant, for commercial or research purposes, that is intended for human ingestion, inhalation, absorption, or other internal consumption, and contains a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of up to 0.3% on a dry weight basis or per volume or weight of the manufacturer hemp product (CGS § 22-61*l* (30)).

Producer Hemp Product

By law, a "producer hemp product" is any of the following produced in the state: raw hemp products, fiber-based hemp products, or animal hemp food products, each containing a THC concentration of less than 0.3% on a dry weight basis or per volume or weight of the product (CGS § 22-61*l* (32)).