

Support HB 23-1020 as Amended for Social Equity Licenses in Regulated Marijuana

HB1020 as amended will:

- Create new license types for social equity licensees: accelerator hospitality business license, accelerator transporter license, independent delivery license and an accelerator independent delivery license as well as accompanying accelerator-endorsed licenses for existing licensees accelerator-endorsed marijuana hospitality business, accelerator endorsed transporter.
- Require DOR to submit an annual report concerning social equity licenses and permits to the Finance Committees beginning January 31, 2025, and each year thereafter.
- Amend the eligibility criteria for new and reinstated social equity licenses beginning January 2024.
- Allow social equity licensees who hold retail marijuana transporter licenses with a retail marijuana delivery permit to apply to a new license type, independent delivery license provided additional criteria are met.
- Require DOR and OEDIT to provide incentives for participation in the social equity program, including a reduction in application and license fees.
- Create a grant committee within OEDIT to review grant applications, select grant recipients, and determine grant awards for social equity licensees.
- Allow the Department of Regulatory Affairs to conduct a Sunset Review Process on the Independent Delivery license and social equity program.

What does the Independent Delivery License do?

- Provides equitable opportunities for success for Social Equity Businesses **and** unchains Social Equity transporters from forced contracts with dispensaries
- Allows for Social Equity Delivery companies to control their own business **and** provides more collaborative and profitable partnerships with Social Equity businesses and the established industry
- Creates a thoughtful and conservative solution to the unwillingness of established industry to partner with Social Equity delivery businesses **and** offers more fair competition and access to the market for dispensaries and wholesalers
- Maintains existing parameters around sales and product safety mandates required of delivery companies and any license type that engages in the wholesale purchase or retail sale of marijuana.
- Allows for the purchase of wholesale marijuana and marijuana products from a MIP or a cultivation facility while handling retail sales transactions **only** through permissible online portals.
- Allows marijuana and marijuana products in a licensed off premise storage site that aligns with the products expiration date
- Continues to deliver products direct to consumers in the manner dictated by law.

Beginning January 2024 this license type is only available to individuals who qualify as social equity and have submitted an application for an off site premise. In January 2028 the exclusivity for social equity ends and every business can apply.