

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

To: Legislative Council

Requested by: Representative Ricks
With support of: Representatives Bacon, English, Herod and Joseph; also Senator(s) Coleman

Re: Request for Interim Study Committee Regarding Black, Indigenous, and Other People of Color (BIPOC) Access to the Cannabis Industry

Date: 4/12/2024

Information Required Pursuant to Section 2-3-303.3, C.R.S.

I hereby request that an interim study committee be formed to study BIPOC Access to the Cannabis Industry during the interim between the 2024 and 2025 legislative sessions. The interim study committee would be named the “BIPOC Access to the Colorado Cannabis Industry Interim Study Committee.”

Since the legalization of marijuana, policymakers have committed to assessing its impact and ensuring inclusivity for the BIPOC community. Initial actions included pardoning, sealing, and expunging records of Black and Brown communities disproportionately affected by marijuana-related offenses. The state then committed to focus on granting marijuana licenses for delivery and hospitality to social equity operators due to the significant financial barrier to entry. However, the number of operational delivery and hospitality businesses remains restricted to this community

The policy issues under examination center on the access of BIPOC communities to engage in the marijuana industry since the passage of House Bill 20-1424. This study encompasses examination and comparison between the BIPOC community and their counterparts of the following various factors of success in the marijuana business such as: the number of businesses owned, the number of licenses to sell and deliver, the number of businesses that are fully operational, including their locations, financial impact on communities of color, and proportionality of involvement.

We will review data from the Department of Revenue (DOR), Marijuana Enforcement Division (MED), Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), and Cannabis Business Office (CBOs), and engage with stakeholders in the marijuana industry.

The interim study committee would need to meet 5 times to study the issues.

The interim study committee should consist of 9 members of the General Assembly selected as follows:

- 4 members of the Senate, with 3 appointed by the President of the Senate and 1 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

- 5 members of the House of Representatives, with 3 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and 2 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

Nonlegislative members will have a role in the interim study committee. Nonlegislators will participate and bring expertise and industry, budgetary, and regulatory knowledge to the committee. The nonlegislative members of the committee will be representatives of the following offices and entities, and are appointed by the office or entity:

- one representative of the Governor's Office;
- two representatives of Color of Cannabis;
- one representative of the Department of Revenue, Marijuana Enforcement Division;
- one representative of EXL;
- one representative of the Marijuana Industry Group;
- one representative of Simply Pure;
- one representative of Gentleman Quinns; and
- one representative of the Cannabis Business Office

The interim study committee will need 2 bills to address the issues it studies.

Additional Information Related to the Interim Study Committee Request

The CBO/OEDIT, MED, and DOR may be called upon to provide assistance or information to the interim study committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.