



**Coalition for Adult Beverage Alternatives**

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May 19, 2025

**Rhode Island General Assembly**

State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Members of the Rhode Island General Assembly,

The Coalition for Adult Beverage Alternatives thanks you for considering responsible regulation for the low-dose hemp-derived THC beverage category. We are a national coalition that represents a united voice for the alcohol and hemp beverage industries to advocate for sensible, consumer-focused regulation of hemp-derived THC beverages.

***We respectfully urge you to support HB 6056/ SB 0984—the Rhode Island Hemp THC-Infused Beverages Act—and oppose HB 6270, which would unnecessarily bar low-dose hemp-derived THC beverages from the marketplace.***

Implementing HB 6056 and SB 0984 establishes a regulatory framework for these beverages similar to that of alcoholic beverages, with a strong focus on public safety. It also includes educational efforts to inform the public about these products and the risks associated with the unregulated black market, while creating a structured tax framework.

**1. Aligning Hemp-Derived THC Beverages with Other Adult Beverages**

Hemp-derived THC beverages belong in the same regulated framework as beer, wine, and spirits. Under HB 6056 / SB 0984, these products would be age-gated (21+ only), subject to licensing, labeling, and testing requirements, and sold through licensed outlets—exactly the model that has kept alcohol sales safe, transparent, and well-regulated for generations.

**2. Protecting Young People Through Age-Gating and Licensing**

Both HB 6056 and SB 0984 strictly limit sales to adults 21 and over, with robust penalties

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for noncompliance. By utilizing the Department of Business Regulation's existing infrastructure—liquor stores, bars, and restaurants—we ensure that retailers already trained in ID verification and responsible service are empowered to enforce these age restrictions.

### **3. Generating Revenue to Strengthen Oversight and Root Out Bad Actors**

Imposing excise and licensing fees on hemp-derived THC beverages not only recoups regulatory costs, but also creates a dedicated fund to bolster enforcement, laboratory testing, and market surveillance. This revenue will enable Rhode Island to swiftly identify and remove unlicensed or dangerous operators, ensuring consumer safety and maintaining public confidence.

### **4. Learning from Established Cannabis Markets: The Case for Low-Dose Beverages**

In states where cannabis dispensaries have controlled low-dose beverages, these products have comprised only about 0.3% of total market sales. By permitting low-dose THC beverages to be accessible through the broader adult-beverage network, we can carve out a low-dose channel that encourages safe and “sessionable” consumption. Moreover, dispensaries in legacy markets have seen increased foot traffic over time as mainstream customers are introduced to low-dose offerings through traditional adult beverage retailers.

Allowing hemp-derived THC beverages under HB 6056/SB 0984 delivers a win-win for consumer safety, regulatory efficiency, and market development—while HB 6270 would be a step backwards and lock these products behind a narrow dispensary system that has historically failed to cultivate the low-dose beverage segment.

Thank you for your leadership on thoughtful regulation that puts Rhode Islanders' health and safety first.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Diana Eberlein". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Diana Eberlein

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COALITION FOR  
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ALTERNATIVES

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