



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg. 68-1
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920**



May 12, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr., Chairman
House Committee on Corporations
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: H 6270- An Act Relating to
Food and Drugs – The Rhode Island Cannabis Act

Dear Chairman Solomon,

I write on behalf of the Department of Business Regulation with regard to H 6270, which would bring the regulation and sale of hemp-derived cannabinoid beverages within the purview of the Cannabis Control Commission (“CCC”). The Department supports this concept and respectfully suggests incorporating Chapter 2-26 of the General Laws in order to fully and efficiently accomplish the bill’s objectives.

Under existing law, hemp-derived THC beverage wholesalers and retailers are licensed and regulated pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 2-26 (the “Hemp Act”) and 230-RICR-80-10-1 (the “Hemp Regulations”). Consistent with the federal Farm Act, 7 U.S.C.A. §1639o-s, the Hemp Regulations restrict THC levels in hemp-derived consumables, including beverages.¹

House Bill 6270 is consistent with Article 3 of the Governor's FY 2026 Budget (H5076), which would transfer Chapter 2-26 licensing and regulatory authority from the DBR to CCC, bringing resources, subject matter expertise, oversight, and enforcement over all cannabis derivatives, including hemp beverages, within the same agency. Adding Chapter 2-26 to the H 6270 provisions that reference Chapters 21-28.6 and 28.11 would likewise effectuate a complete integration.

Thank you for consideration of the Department’s testimony.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kelleher Dwyer, Esq.
Director, Department of Business Regulation

Cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations
Honorable Scott Slater
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker

¹ The maximum level is 1mg of total THC per serving, 5 mg of total THC per package, or .3% total THC on a dry weight basis pursuant to the applicable product type. 230-RICR-80-10-1.5(A).