

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5796

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As of January 19, 2022

**Title:** An act relating to restructuring cannabis revenue appropriations to provide transparency and accountability and to increase community infrastructure and investment.

**Brief Description:** Restructuring cannabis revenue appropriations.

**Sponsors:** Senators Saldaña, Stanford, Keiser, Lias and Wilson, C..

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Labor, Commerce & Tribal Affairs: 1/19/22.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Renames the Dedicated Marijuana Account to the Dedicated Cannabis Account.
- Restructures, modifies, and removes certain appropriations to agencies, local governments, and the state general fund relative to cannabis.
- Creates the Community Reinvestment Account and specifies reasons for expenditures.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & TRIBAL AFFAIRS

**Staff:** Matt Shepard-Koningsor (786-7627)

**Background:** Dedicated Marijuana Account. The Dedicated Marijuana Account (Marijuana Account) is an appropriated account in the custody of the state treasurer. All moneys received by the Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) from marijuana-related activities must be deposited in the Marijuana Account. These moneys include marijuana excise taxes collected on sales of marijuana and marijuana products, license fees, penalties, and forfeitures from marijuana producers, processors, researchers, and retailers. Moneys from the account are distributed to agencies, local governments, and to the Basic Health

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Plan Trust Account. At the end of each fiscal year (FY), unappropriated amounts in the Marijuana Account are transferred into the state general fund.

Cannabis Appropriations. According to LCB's 2021 Annual Report, total cannabis income, which includes excise tax, license fees, and penalties, was \$473.9 million in FY20 and \$559.5 million in FY21. The current structure and amounts of cannabis appropriations are as follows:

- the Legislature must annually appropriate:
  - \$125,000 to the Health Care Authority (HCA) to design and administer the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey;
  - until 2032, \$50,000 to HCA to contract with the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) to conduct cost-benefit evaluations and produce reports regarding the legalization of marijuana;
  - \$5,000 to the University of Washington (UW) alcohol and drug abuse institute for education materials regarding health and safety risks posed by marijuana use;
  - not less than \$1,250,000 to LCB for administration of the state Uniform Controlled Substances Act (UCSA);
  - \$1,323,000 in FY20 to the Health Professions Account for the development and administration of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) marijuana authorization database;
  - \$2,453,000 in FY20, \$2,423,000 in FYs 21-23 to the Washington State Patrol Drug Enforcement Task Force;
  - \$98,000 in FY19 to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) for research on accreditation of marijuana product testing laboratories;
  - \$465,000 in FY20, \$464,000 in FY21, \$270,000 in FY22, and \$276,000 in FY23 to Ecology for accreditation of marijuana product testing laboratories;
  - \$189,000 in FY20 to DOH for rule making regarding compassionate care renewals;
  - \$808,000 in FYs 21-23 to DOH for administration of the marijuana authorization database;
  - \$635,000 in FY20, \$635,000 in FY21, \$621,000 in FY 22, \$627,000 in FY23 to the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) for marijuana pesticide testing;
  - \$1,650,000 in FY22 and \$1,650,000 in FY23 to the Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce) to fund the cannabis social equity technical assistance grant program; and
  - \$163,000 in FY22 and \$159,000 in FY23 to Commerce to establish the cannabis social equity roster of mentors;
- after appropriation of the amounts above, the Legislature must appropriate the remaining amounts in the Marijuana Account as follows:
  - up to 15 percent, but not less than \$25,536,000, subject to additional limitations, to HCA for administration of programs and practices aimed at prevention or reduction of substance use among middle and high school-age

- students;
- up to 10 percent, but not less than \$9,750,000, to DOH for administration of a marijuana education and public health program and the Washington Poison Control Center;
- up to 0.6 percent to UW and 0.4 percent to Washington State University (WSU) for marijuana research; except for FYs 19-23, the minimum amount appropriated to UW must be \$1,021,000 and \$681,000 to WSU;
- 50 percent to the state Basic Health Plan Trust Account, administered by HCA;
- 5 percent to HCA for contracted community centers providing certain health services; and
- up to 0.3 percent, but not less than \$511,000, to the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to fund grants to building bridges programs;
- after appropriation of the amounts above, the Washington State Treasurer (Treasurer) must transfer the remaining amounts into the state general fund; and
- if marijuana excise tax collections from the previous FY exceed \$25,000,000, then the Legislature must appropriate an amount equal to 30 percent, but not more than \$15,000,000 in FYs 18-21 or \$20,000,000 in succeeding FYs, of all marijuana excise taxes to the Treasurer for distribution to counties, cities, and towns (local governments) as follows:
  - 30 percent to local governments where licensed marijuana retailers are physically located—each jurisdiction must receive a proportional share based on total revenues generated and taxes collected in such jurisdiction; and
  - 70 percent to local governments on a per capita basis provided the jurisdiction does not prohibit marijuana siting—counties must receive 60 percent based on each county's total proportional population.

**Summary of Bill:** The Marijuana Account is renamed to the Dedicated Cannabis Account (Cannabis Account).

Cannabis Appropriations. *Modified, New Appropriations.* The Legislature must appropriate 19 percent of all money in the Cannabis Account quarterly or as follows:

- \$12,148,000 to LCB for administration of the UCSA;
- until June 30, 2032, \$200,000 to HCA to contract with WSIPP to conduct cost-benefit evaluations and produce reports regarding the legalization of marijuana;
- \$270,000 in FY22 and \$464,000 in FY23 to Ecology for accreditation of marijuana product testing laboratories;
- \$800,000 in FYs 20-23 to DOH for administration of the marijuana authorization database; and
- \$621,000 in FY22 and \$635,000 in FY23 to WSDA for marijuana pesticide testing.

Any amounts remaining after the distributions above must be distributed as follows:

- \$27,800,000 to local governments as follows:
  - 30 percent to local governments where licensed marijuana retailers are

- physically located. Each jurisdiction must receive a proportional share based on total revenues generated and taxes collected in such jurisdictions;
- 70 percent to local governments on a per capita basis provided the jurisdiction does not prohibit marijuana siting—counties must receive 60 percent based on each county's total proportional population; and
  - distribution amounts to local governments must be distributed in four installments by the end of each fiscal quarter—by September 15th of each year, LCB must provide the annual distribution amount to the Treasurer.

Any amounts remaining from the 19 percent, after the distributions above, must be deposited in the state general fund.

The Legislature must then annually appropriate all other amounts in the Cannabis Account not otherwise expended above, as follows:

- 58 percent to the state Basic Health Plan Trust Account, administered by HCA; and
- any amounts remaining must be distributed as follows:
  - \$49,246,000 to HCA for administration of the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey, programs and practices aimed at prevention or reduction of substance use among middle and high school-age students, and contracted community centers providing certain health services;
  - \$10,616,000 to DOH for administration of a marijuana education and public health program and the Washington Poison Control Center;
  - \$20,000 to UW alcohol and drug abuse institute for education materials regarding health and safety risks posed by marijuana use;
  - \$378,000 to UW and \$207,000 to WSU for marijuana research;
  - \$530,000 to OSPI to fund grants to building bridges programs;
  - \$2,000,000 to Commerce to fund the cannabis social equity technical assistance grant program;
  - \$200,000 to Commerce to fund any cannabis social equity technical assistance roster of mentors; and
  - \$1,000,000 to Commerce for administration of low interest loans to cannabis social equity applicant licensees.

Any amounts not appropriated above must be transferred from the Cannabis Account into the Community Reinvestment Account (Reinvestment Account) and appropriated to Commerce to establish a Cannabis Equity Grant Program, which must be distributed in collaboration with "by and for community organizations" as defined by Commerce and the Office of Equity.

*Lapsed Appropriations.* Specific FY appropriations that have lapsed are removed.

Community Reinvestment Account. The Reinvestment Account is created in the state treasury. Expenditures from the account may be used for:

- economic development, which includes addressing wealth disparities to promote asset

building such as home ownership and expanding access to financial resources including, but not limited to grants and loans for small businesses and entrepreneurs, financial literacy training, and other small business training and support activities, and contributions to the Washington future fund pursuant to 2022 legislation to be used for assisting young adults of limited means in pursuing opportunities for education, housing, or entrepreneurship;

- civil and criminal legal assistance to provide post-conviction relief and case assistance, including the removal of criminal records and convictions;
- community-based violence intervention and prevention services;
- reentry services to facilitate successful transitions for persons formerly incarcerated in an adult correctional facility or juvenile residential facility in Washington; and
- public education regarding the harms associated with tobacco and cannabis use, outreach to medically under-served communities regarding tobacco and cannabis use, prevention, and cessation, and grants to health centers and youth development programs for tobacco and cannabis cessation treatment services.

**Appropriation:** The bill contains multiple appropriations to specified entities from the Dedicated Cannabis Account.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: We have to change the structure that has been in place since November 2012 to provide needed investments in community. Cannabis revenues have found their way into the general fund and transparency is lacking. Investments in community and local governments are necessary. Snohomish County struggles with being able to provide enough support to the homeless community and address the opioid crisis. We support the bill but are hopeful for additional county funding. More transparency and accountability make this more of a participatory budget matter, which we support.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Rebecca Saldaña, Prime Sponsor; Vicki Christophersen, Washington CannaBusiness Association; Josh Weiss, Snohomish County; Paula Sardinas, WBBA/FMSGs.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.