



Cannabis Equity in Denver

Legislation Summary

Bill	Topic	Details
<p>1 <u>Omnibus Bill</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Equity • Changes to existing licenses • Marijuana Delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revises Denver’s Marijuana Code provisions using an equity lens and creates opportunities for Social Equity Applicants • Aligns with state criteria for Social Equity Applicants • Aligns Denver’s Marijuana Code provisions with the Colorado Marijuana Code and state rules • Modifies distribution of existing store and cultivation licenses by removing the location cap and location lottery requirements • Creates a Denver Marijuana Delivery Program
<p>2 <u>Bill to Enact Marijuana Hospitality Program</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marijuana Consumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates a Denver Marijuana Hospitality Program to allow for lawful marijuana consumption establishments
<p>3 <u>Bill to Repeal Cannabis Consumption Pilot Program</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marijuana Consumption • Cleanup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeals citizen-initiated consumption establishment ordinance after enactment of a Denver Marijuana Hospitality Program

Social Equity – Taking Down Fences

Remove the cap on store and cultivation locations

- The cap inflates price of licenses, so that only extremely well-resourced companies can enter the retail and cultivation sectors.
- The cap forces a lottery, first-come-first-served, or merit-based process for distributing a limited number of licenses, which has been extremely harmful to social equity applicants in some other jurisdictions. These competitive methods of license distribution encourage predatory practices, can result in costly lawsuits and delays for social equity applicants, and ultimately favor the most well-resourced companies.



Social Equity – Putting Up Ladders

6 Years of License Exclusivity

- Stores
- Transporters
- Cultivations
- Manufacturing
- Hospitality
- Hospitality & Sales

3 Years of Delivery Exclusivity

- Only social equity applicant-owned transporters can conduct deliveries on behalf of stores.

Reduced Fees

- 50% discount on license and application fees for existing license types
- Lower license fees for new delivery and hospitality licenses

Programmatic Support

- Process navigation
- Education and technical assistance
- Possible additional financial support



The City Council Process

Agency files Bill Request

- Once EXL feels that a bill is ready to be considered by City Council, we file a formal Bill Request.
- This is a form that EXL submits to the City Council central office, along with a copy of the draft bill.

City Council Committee

- **Finance & Governance (FinGov): March 2, 2021, 1:30 p.m.**
- Once a bill request is filed, the bill is assigned to a City Council committee.
- Agency representatives present the bill and answer questions.
- There is time at the end of the meeting reserved for public comment.
- After public comment, committee members vote on whether the bill should go to the full City Council.

Mayor-Council Meeting

- Once a bill passes out of committee, it must be announced at a formal meeting where the Mayor and members of City Council are present.
- An EXL representative will read the name of the bill and must be able to answer any questions, though questions at this meeting are rare.

First Reading at City Council

- A bill must be read twice before it can be voted on.
- The First Reading usually occurs on the Monday after a bill has been announced at Mayor-Council.
- City Council members may ask questions of EXL representatives.
- Sometimes, City Council members propose floor amendments to the bill language.

Second Reading at City Council

- Second Reading occurs at the next City Council meeting after First Reading (usually one week later).
- City Council members may propose floor amendments, and must vote on whether to adopt those amendments.
- After any amendments are considered, the bill is voted on for final approval.

How can I participate?

Contact your Elected Official

- Call, email, or write a letter to your [City Council representatives](#).
- You can find out which District you live in [here](#).

Make a Public Comment

- One of the most impactful ways to participate is to provide a verbal public comment at the committee meeting where a bill is being considered. [Register](#) to view FinGov meetings.
- You can sign up [online](#), and will be given two minutes to speak.
- Let them know how you want them to vote, and tell them why you feel that way.

Recruit others

- If you know that there are others who share your stance, encourage them to participate as well.

Available Cannabis Licenses and Permits in Denver

(as of 1/27/21)

Available License and Permit Types

Medical and retail manufacturing licenses

Medical and retail testing facility licenses

Medical and retail transporter licenses

Medical research and development license

Cannabis consumption establishment license

Cannabis consumption special event permit

Licenses and Permits Not (Yet) Available in Denver

Unavailable License and Permit Types

Medical store (moratorium)

Medical cultivation (moratorium)

Retail store - standalone (cap on locations)

Retail cultivation - standalone (cap on locations)

Delivery permit

Hospitality license (mobile, + sales)

Remember:

The draft bills would maintain the moratorium on medical stores and cultivations, remove the cap on retail stores and cultivations, and create delivery permits and hospitality licenses.

Resources

- Subscribe to Denver's Marijuana Industry Informational bulletin [here](#).
- Read the D.R.M.C. - Chapter 6, Article V – [Denver Retail Marijuana Code](#).
- Read the D.R.M.C. - Chapter 6, Article VI – [Cannabis Consumption Pilot Program](#).
- Read the D.R.M.C. - Chapter 24, Article XII – [Denver Marijuana Code \(Medical\)](#).
- Visit the Denver [Marijuana Information](#) webpage (links to data, annual report, licensing, etc.).
- Visit the Denver [Laws Rules and Regulations](#) webpage (links to draft bills, work plan, stakeholder session information, etc.).
- For more information on Denver cannabis licensing processes and required documents for cannabis licenses, refer to the Denver [Marijuana Licenses](#) webpage.
- If you have questions about the **Denver** code or **Denver** licensing processes, contact marijuanainfo@denvergov.org.