

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE REGULATION ADMINISTRATION
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD**

REVISED PUBLIC NOTICE

**Open Period for Submission of Letter of Intent to Submit Application for Medical Cannabis
Cultivation Center, Dispensary and Testing Laboratory Registration**

This revised notice is intended to notify the public that the Letter of Intent form deadline to formally notify the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (Board) that an application for a new cultivation center, dispensary or testing laboratory registration is forthcoming is being extended from noon on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, to **noon on Friday, May, 21, 2021**.

On April 6, 2021, the Council of the District of Columbia adopted Bill 24-0194, the Medical Cannabis Emergency Amendment Act of 2021 (Act). Among its provisions, the Act allows up to two testing laboratories within an election ward and prohibits straw ownership. The Act also allows returning citizens to own a medical cannabis business unless they have been convicted of a felony for a crime of violence, gun offense, tax evasion, fraud, or credit card fraud within the 3 years preceding the date the application is filed with the Board. The April 21, 2021 deadline is being extended to provide the Board with sufficient time to notify the public of the statutory changes set forth in the Act, which has an effective date of March 22, 2021.

Pursuant to 22 DCMR C § 5401.1, applications for new cultivation center, dispensary, or testing laboratory registrations shall only be accepted by the Board during the open application period as specified by the Board by published Notice in the *D.C. Register*. Subsection 5401.2 of 22-C DCMR further provides that prior to the submission of a formal application for a new cultivation center, dispensary, or testing laboratory registration, the prospective applicant shall submit a Letter of Intent to the Board. The Board shall only accept Letters of Intent during the time period specified by the Board by Notice in the *D.C. Register*.

Persons interested in submitting a Letter of Intent shall do so by completing the Letter of Intent Form posted on the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration Webpage. **No other format will be accepted.** The Board will begin accepting Letters of Intent on Monday, March 22, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. and end on Friday, May 21, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. eastern standard time.

Letters of Intent shall be submitted in a manner to ensure that delivery to the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) can be verified. Letters of Intent should be mailed to ABRA and addressed to Medical Cannabis Program, 2000 14th Street, NW, Suite 400 South, Washington, DC 20009, Attention: Sean Gordy, Licensing Manager. Alternatively, Letters of Intent may be submitted e-mailed to mcfacilities@dc.gov

Only two (2) testing laboratory registrations will be issued. The Board is now accepting new testing laboratory applications for any election ward. Only the individuals and entities that submit timely Letters of Intent to the Board, meeting the requirements set forth in the regulations, shall be permitted to submit an application for a testing laboratory registration. Regardless of the number of applications submitted, the number of testing laboratory registrations issued shall not exceed two (2).

Only one (1) dispensary registration will be issued for either Ward 3 or Ward 5. Applicants may submit an application for Ward 3 and Ward 5, but must file a separate Letter of Intent Form and a separate application, with a separate application fee, for each. Only the individuals and entities that submit timely Letters of Intent to the Board, meeting the requirements set forth in the regulations, shall be permitted to submit an application for a dispensary registration in Ward 3 or Ward 5. Regardless of the number of applications received, only one (1) registration will be issued, and it will be issued for either Ward 3 or Ward 5, but not both.

Only two (2) cultivation center registrations will be issued. Applicants may apply for both a cultivation center and dispensary registration but must file a separate Letter of Intent Form and a separate application for each registration sought. Only the individuals and entities that submit timely Letters of Intent to the Board, meeting the requirements set forth in the regulations, shall be permitted to submit an application for a cultivation center registration.

****NOTE: The Board will not be accepting new cultivation center applications for Ward 5 as the statutory limit for cultivation centers operating in Ward 5 has been reached.**

The United States Congress has determined that cannabis is a controlled substance and has placed cannabis in Schedule I of the Controlled Substance Act. Growing, distributing, and possessing cannabis in any capacity, other than part of a federally authorized research program, is a violation of federal laws. The District of Columbia's law authorizing the Medical Cannabis Program will not excuse any person from any violation of the federal laws governing cannabis or authorize any registrant to violate federal laws.