



## Discuss Draft Cannabis Ordinance: Regulating the Registration and Sale of Cannabis Products

General Governance and Policy Committee  
April 8, 2025

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### Draft Cannabis Ordinance



#### **This draft ordinance incorporates:**

- Policy direction given at March 11 GGP meeting
- Supporting feedback at March 22 Township Officers meeting
- Restrictive elements regulating:
  - Cap on number of retail registrations that the County will approve
  - Time, place and manner of retail sales

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## **Section 1. Purpose**

To implement the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 342 which authorizes the retail registration and sale of cannabis products.

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## **Section 2. Provisions of State Law Adopted**

## **Section 3. Severability**

## **Section 4. Enforcement**

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## Section 5. Definitions

## Section 6. Registration of Cannabis Business for Cities or Townships Where Dakota County Consents to Jurisdiction

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## Cannabis Business Registrations



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## Role of Cities and Townships



- Within 30 days of receiving the Preliminary License Approval request from OCM, the local jurisdiction certifies to OCM whether a proposed cannabis retail business complies with local zoning ordinances, state fire code and building code.
- If a local city or township delegates authority to Dakota County to issue cannabis retail registrations, before issuing a cannabis retail business registration, the local city or township will confirm that the preliminary compliance check ensured compliance with local ordinances.

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## **Section 7. Lower-Potency Hemp Edible Retailers**

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## Low-Potency Hemp Edibles



### Low-Potency Hemp Edibles:

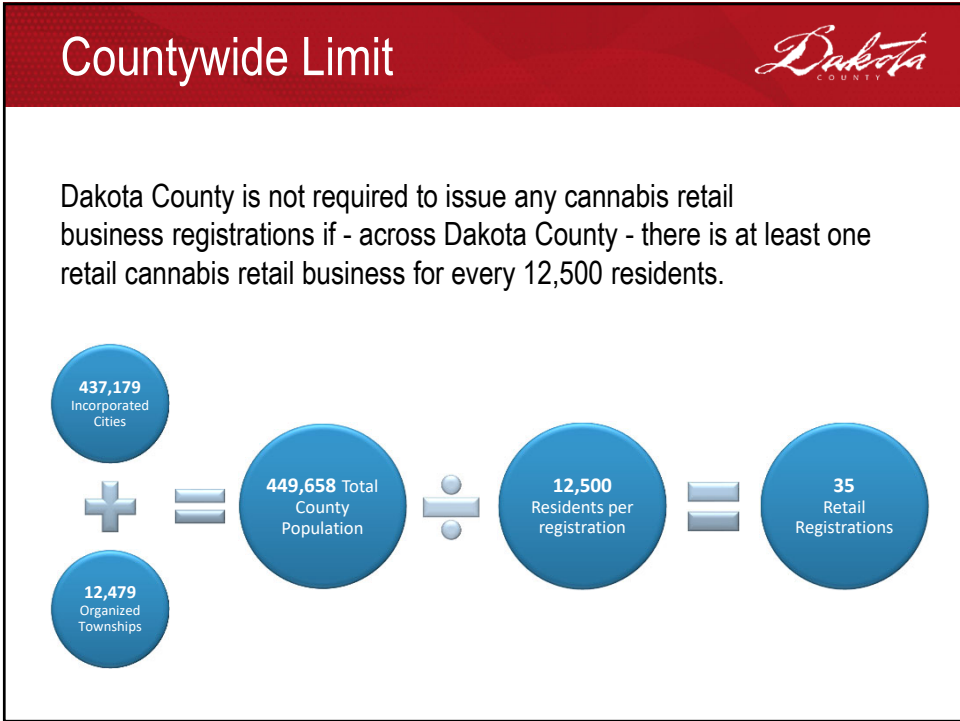
- Will require retail registration
- Must be stored in a locked cabinet or behind the counter
- May only be sold during the same hours as adult-use cannabis to persons 21 years old or older
- Beverages may be sold at a location holding an on- or off-sale intoxicating liquor license during the business hours outlined in the intoxicating liquor ordinance and stored and served in a manner similar to alcoholic beverages

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## Section 8. Limiting of Cannabis Registrations

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## Dakota County Jurisdiction Limit *Dakota* COUNTY

If the countywide limit (35 registrations) does not apply, Dakota County may still limit the number of cannabis retail businesses to **no more than one registration for every 12,500 residents** within any area in which Dakota County has jurisdiction by consent with local cities or townships.

In calculating this limit, Dakota County will base any limit on the total population of only those areas where Dakota County exercises jurisdiction over cannabis retail business registrations.

Organized Townships	Population	Minimum Retail Registrations	Consented to Dakota County
1. Ravenna	2,333		Yes
2. Eureka	1,388		Yes
3. Castle Rock	1,381	1	
4. Vermillion	1,294	1	
5. Marshan	1,145	1	
6. Nininger	870	1	
7. Hampton	841	1	
8. Greenvale	779	1	
9. Randolph	756	1	
10. Douglas	728	1	
11. Waterford	517	1	
12. Sciota	447	1	
<b>Population</b>	<b>12,479</b>	<b>10 Licenses</b>	<b>1 license</b>

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## Section 9. Location

Local cities and townships may set their own reasonable restrictions per their zoning ordinance on the location of retail cannabis businesses.

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## Buffer Zones

In the absence of a local city or township ordinance placing reasonable restrictions on the location of a retail cannabis business, Dakota County shall prohibit the operation of a cannabis business within:

- 1,000 feet of a school
- 500 feet of a day care
- 500 feet of a residential treatment facility
- 500 feet of an existing public park that is regularly used by minors, including a playground, athletic field, athletic recreation center, or youth-oriented facility
- 1,000 feet of another cannabis retail business

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## Section 10. Hours and Days of Sale

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### Hours and Days for Retail Sales

Cannabis businesses are limited to retail sale of cannabis, cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products:

- Monday through Saturday: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Sunday: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

No retail sale of cannabis products by a cannabis business:

- Before 8:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m. on Monday through Saturday
- Before 10:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m. on Sunday
- On Thanksgiving Day
- After 9:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24
- On Christmas Day, December 25, or otherwise as prohibited by law

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**Section 11.  
Liability Insurance**

**Section 12.  
Delinquent Taxes, Assessments**

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**Section 13.  
License Restrictions  
Section 14.  
Registration Application  
Procedure  
Section 15.  
Registration Renewals**

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## **Section 16. Suspension of Registration**

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### **Suspension of Registration**

1. Dakota County may suspend a cannabis retail business's registration if it violates the ordinance of Dakota County or poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of the public.
2. The Dakota County shall immediately notify the business and OCM.
3. OCM will provide a response to the complaint within 7 calendar days and perform any necessary inspections within 30 calendar days.
4. The suspension of a cannabis retail business registration may be for up to 30 calendar days, unless OCM suspends the license for a longer period.
5. Dakota County shall reinstate a registration if OCM determines that the violations have been resolved.

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## Section 17. Fees

Amend the 2025 Fee Schedule to add the following fees related to cannabis retail registration, events, and penalties.

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## Fee Schedule



License Type	Initial	Renewal
Retailer	\$500	\$1,000
Low-Potency Hemp Retailer	\$125	\$125
Medical Combination Retailer	\$500	\$1,000
Mezzobusiness Retailer	\$500	\$1,000
Microbusiness Retailer	\$0	\$1,000
<b>Temporary Cannabis Events</b>		
Temporary Cannabis Event Permit	\$150	
<b>Penalties</b>		
Any Ordinance Violation	\$2,000	

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**Section 18.  
Posting of Retail Registration**

**Section 19.  
Licensee Responsibility**

**Section 20.  
Restrictions Regarding Purchase  
and Consumption**

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**Section 21.  
Temporary Cannabis Events**

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## Temporary Cannabis Events



### Temporary Cannabis Events shall meet the following standards:

- Standards:
  - Event held in unincorporated areas of Dakota County
  - Landowner & Township Approval
  - Limit to two days
  - General Liability Insurance
  - >300 attendees requires Assemblage Permit
- Temporary cannabis events may not be held on Dakota County property or within 1,000 feet from the boundary of County property
- Temporary cannabis events shall only be held between the hours of:
  - Sunday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
  - Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Must be 21 years of age or older to attend temporary cannabis event
- No on-site consumption of cannabis products or lower-potency hemp edibles

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## Temporary Cannabis Events, cont.



### The application includes a written plan that addresses the following requirements:

- Method to track the number of attendees
- Fence or barrier completely enclosing the property and staffed entrances and exits
- Separately enclosed toilets and handwashing stations
- Illumination to sufficiently light the property
- Security and traffic controls
- Fire protection
- Sufficient amount of parking on-site

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## **Section 23. Compliance Checks and Inspections**

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### **Compliance Checks**

Dakota County Sheriff's Office shall conduct at minimum one compliance check per calendar year.

- Unannounced age verification check
- Ordinance compliance for time, place and manner restrictions

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## Section 24. Penalties

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### Penalties

Subdivision 1. Any state-licensed cannabis retail business that sells to a customer or patient without valid retail registration, or is in violation of other provisions within this ordinance, shall incur a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 for each violation.

Subdivision 2. Criminal Penalties. Any violation of the provisions of this ordinance or failure to comply with any of its requirements constitutes a misdemeanor and is punishable as defined by law. Violations of this ordinance can occur regardless of whether a permit is required for a regulated activity listed in this ordinance.

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## Section 25. Hearing and Appeals

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### Next Steps



- PS&R registered as Dakota County contact with the Office of Cannabis Management
- March 11: General Governance & Policy Committee Meeting
  - Receive direction from Commissioners on policy topics
- March 22: Meeting with Township Officers Association
- Refine draft Ordinance after direction from GGP
- **April 8: General Governance & Policy Committee Meeting**
  - Present draft Ordinance for discussion
- TBD: Schedule public hearing
  - Notice published 10 days prior to public hearing
- TBD: Hold public hearing and seek County Board approval

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