



Public Hearing

Intent to Adopt Cannabis Ordinance: Regulating the Registration and Sale of Cannabis Products and Amend 2025 Fees

Dakota County Board of Commissioners
May 20, 2025

Cannabis Ordinance



This ordinance incorporates:

- Policy direction given at March 11 General Government and Policy Committee (GGP) meeting
- Supporting feedback from March 22 Township Officers meeting
- Review of draft ordinance at April 8 GGP meeting
- Restrictive elements regulating:
 - Cap on number of retail registrations that the County will approve
 - Time, place and manner of retail sales

Township / City Consent Required



This ordinance applies only to:

- Retail cannabis and lower-potency hemp businesses within the legal boundaries of Dakota County
- **Where** the city or township consents to Dakota County administering registration of retail cannabis businesses and lower-potency hemp businesses
 - Adopted resolution required before the county will administer responsibilities under this ordinance

To date, resolutions have been received from:
Eureka, Hampton and Ravenna townships

Countywide Limit



Dakota County is not required to issue any cannabis retail business registrations if - across Dakota County - there is at least one retail cannabis retail business for every 12,500 residents.



Dakota County Jurisdiction Limit



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		Yes
8. Greenvale	779	1	
9. Randolph	756	1	
10. Douglas	728	1	
11. Waterford	517	1	
12. Sciota	447	1	
Population	12,479	9 Licenses	1 license



Amendments to Published Draft

Hours and Days for Retail Sales



Cannabis and lower-potency hemp retail businesses are limited to retail sales:

- Monday through Saturday: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Sunday: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Exception: Lower-potency beverage sales by an on-sale liquor license holder

No retail sale of cannabis or low potency hemp products:

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

Suspension of Registration



Dakota County Director of Public Services and Revenue Division* may suspend a cannabis retail business's registration for up to 30 days if it violates the ordinance of Dakota County or poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of the public.

* amendment to provide for a swift response to any immediate threat to the health or safety of the public

OCM will be immediately notified and will provide a response to the complaint within 7 calendar days and perform any necessary inspections within 30 calendar days.

Dakota County shall reinstate a registration if OCM determines that the violations have been resolved.

Amend the 2025 Fee Schedule

Add to 2025 Fee Schedule

License Type	Initial	Renewal
Retailer	\$500	\$1,000
Lower-Potency Hemp Retailer	\$125	\$125
Medical Combination Retailer	\$500	\$1,000
Mezzobusiness Retailer	\$500	\$1,000
Microbusiness Retailer	\$0	\$1,000

Temporary Cannabis Events

Temporary Cannabis Event Permit	\$150 per event
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Final Step



- ☒ 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
- ☒ April 22: Schedule public hearing by County Board
 - Notice published in the Official Newspaper on May 8 and 15, and on the Dakota County website
- **May 20: Hold public hearing and seek County Board adoption of Cannabis Ordinance and amend the 2025 Fee Schedule**



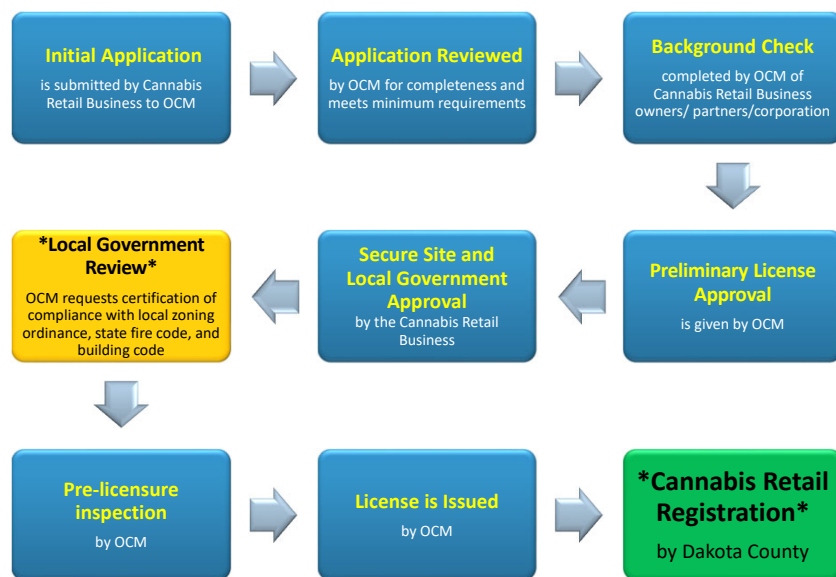
- Following slides are for reference as needed

Role of Cities and Townships



- **Certify to the Office of Cannabis Management:**
Within 30 days of receiving a 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 and building codes.
- **Certify to Dakota County:**
The city or township will confirm to Dakota County that the preliminary compliance check ensured compliance with local zoning ordinances, state fire and building codes before Dakota County will issue retail registration.

OCM Retail License Process



Cannabis Business Registrations



Lower-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-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
- Not subject to caps on retail registration

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, including a playground or athletic field, athletic recreation center, or youth-oriented facility
- 1,000 feet of another cannabis retail business

Additional Requirements



- **Liability Insurance**
 - a) No retail registration may be issued, maintained, or renewed unless the applicant demonstrates proof of financial responsibility with regard to liability.
 - b) At a minimum, the applicant must show an insurance policy, pool, or bond of a surety company providing at least:
An aggregate liability policy limit of not less than \$1 Million per policy year (Liquor Ord \$310,000)
- **Verification of Payment of all Taxes and Assessments**

Temporary Cannabis Events

Temporary Cannabis Events

Temporary Cannabis Events shall meet the following:

- 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

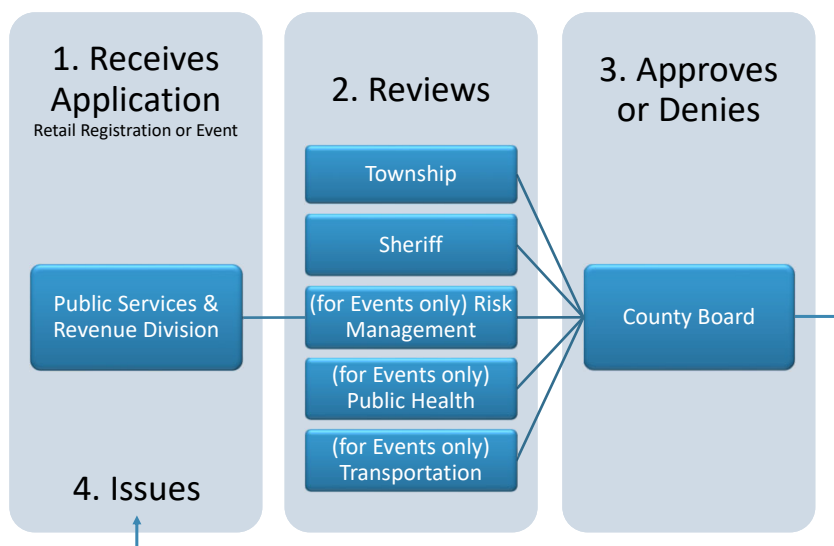
Temporary Cannabis Events, cont.



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

Approval Process



Licensee Responsibility and License Restrictions



Subdivision 1. The act of any employee of the licensed premises shall be deemed the act of the licensee as well.

Subdivision 2. A cannabis retail registration issued under this ordinance shall not be transferred.

Subdivision 3. The retail registration is only effective for the compact and contiguous space specified in the application.

Subdivision 4. The retail registration shall be posted in a conspicuous place.

Subdivision 5. The registrant shall comply with all statutory requirements for retail cannabis or retail hemp sales, including but not limited to all restriction on sales to minors.

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

Any compliance check failures under this section must be reported to the OCM.

Penalties



Any state-licensed cannabis retail business that sells to a customer or patient without valid retail registration, shall incur a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 for each violation.

Nothing in this ordinance shall prohibit the enforcement of any other applicable state or federal law or regulation in addition to or instead of any civil enforcement remedy that may be sought under this ordinance.

Maximum Fees set in Statute



Registration Fees	OCM	County/City/Twp
Lower-Potency Hemp Edible Retailer		
Application	\$250	
Initial	\$250	\$125
Renewal	\$250	\$125
Medical Cannabis Combination (Medical + Adult-Use)		
Application	\$10,000	
Initial	\$20,000	\$500
Renewal	\$70,000	\$1,000
Mezzobusiness		
Application	\$5,000	
Initial	\$5,000	\$500
Renewal	\$10,000	\$1,000
Microbusiness		
Application	\$500	
Initial	\$0	\$0
Renewal	\$2,000	\$1,000
Retailer		
Application	\$2,500	
Initial	\$2,500	\$500
Renewal	\$5,000	\$1,000