

# CANNABIS LEGALIZATION TIMELINE

The Minnesota legislature adopted [Chapter 63](#) this spring, making the possession, use and personal cultivation of cannabis legal as of August 1, 2023. The following timeline enumerates the effective dates of various provisions of the law so that local governments can prepare for the new industry.

AFTER FINAL  
ENACTMENT

## Temporary Regulation of Certain Products

Reference: [Article 7](#)

- The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will enforce the provisions of Minnesota Statute 151.72 (the legalization of hemp-derived edibles), until the power and duties are able to be transferred to the **Office of Cannabis Management (OCM)** by March 1, 2025, or earlier if the OCM is able to take over these duties.
- Local governments may consider amending ordinances passed pertaining to statute 151.72.

AUGUST 1,  
2023

## Possession, Use, and Personal Cultivation of Cannabis Becomes Legal

Reference: [Article 1, Section 9](#)

- The use, possession, and personal cultivation becomes legal in Minnesota.
- Local governments may consider passing ordinances regulating the public use of cannabis.
- Local governments may consider updating their policies on employee drug testing and employee cannabis use.

AUGUST 2023 –  
MARCH 2024

## Cannabis Expungement Board is Created

Reference: [Article 5, Section 5](#)

- The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension will expunge certain cannabis-related convictions. Local governments will be required to seal all records related to the expungement, including the records of the person's arrest, indictment, trial verdict, and dismissal or discharge of the case. Local governments will also be required to provide the Cannabis Expungement Board access to law enforcement or prosecuting authority records.
- All edible cannabinoid product retailers must register with the Department of Health by October 1, 2023. After this date, sale without registration is prohibited.

MID - LATE  
2024

## Local Government Cannabis Aid Begins

- Reference: [Article 2, Section 28](#).
- By September 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the local government cannabis aid account in the special revenue fund will be certified. Half of the local government cannabis aid will go to counties and the other half will go to cities, with payments being made in late December annually.

LATE  
2024

## Cannabis Businesses Licensing Likely to Begin

- The OCM is expected to begin working with local governments to approve cannabis business licenses.
- Local governments may consider developing a policy for reviewing applications.

JANUARY  
2025

## Cannabis Businesses Likely to Open

- Cannabis businesses will likely begin to apply for and obtain licenses.
- Local governments may consider passing ordinances relating to the time, place, and manner of cannabis business operations.
- Local governments may consider developing a policy for compliance checks.
- Local THC licensing may continue until the OCM begins issuing licenses. If a local government has already passed a THC licensing ordinance they may want to consider revising the ordinance.

MARCH  
2025

## Medical Cannabis Program Transferred

- Reference: [Article 1, Section 3](#)
- The Medical Cannabis Program is temporarily regulated by MDH until March 1, 2025, or earlier if the OCM is ready to manage the program before that date.

### Passing an interim ordinance temporary prohibiting the sale of adult-use cannabis products:

Local governments may consider conducting a study or holding a public hearing for the purpose of considering adoption of reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of the operation of a cannabis business. Issuing a study or holding a public hearing allows local governments to adopt an interim ordinance to regulate, restrict, or prohibit the operation of a cannabis business within the jurisdiction or a portion thereof until January 1, 2025.

Current moratoriums are not affected by the new law. If a local unit of government has already adopted a moratorium on lower-potency edibles the moratorium may remain in place until expired.