

Articles #4 & #5

What would the impact of the vote be on Vernon?

If the vote passes, what are the Economic Impacts?

Currently, the state will tax all cannabis sales with a 6% sales tax and a 14 % excise tax. This goes directly to the state coffers. Cannabis could bring in local tax revenue, but only if a town has a 1% local options retail tax. Currently, there is no local options tax in Vernon. Vernon can vote to adopt the 1% local options retail tax should voters decide to opt in to host a retail cannabis establishment.

The Vermont Cannabis Commission has recommended that towns be allowed some of the state tax revenue (in addition to any local options tax), the outcome of the recommendation has yet to be considered by the Vermont Legislature.

If the vote does not pass, will this prevent cannabis retailers from operating in town?

Yes. These operations are not allowed in all Vermont Towns and residents do have the ability to deny these operations from being established in the municipality.

Do municipalities need to opt in in order to host a cannabis establishment?

A municipality must opt in to host a retail cannabis establishment. But the opt-in vote requirement only applies to retail and the retail portion of integrated license types, and does not impact the ability for other license types to operate in a particular municipality. These other license types include cultivators, wholesalers, manufacturers, and testing laboratories.

If a municipality has not opted to host a cannabis retail store, can it keep other types of cannabis establishments from operating?

A municipality may not use its regulatory authority to prohibit the operation of non-retail cannabis establishments.

Can cannabis retailers sell cannabis online?

No. Internet ordering and delivery of cannabis to consumers are prohibited.

If the vote fails can the Town hold another vote in the future to approve retail cannabis retail establishments?

Yes. The Town may vote to opt in at any time in the future.

Do residents have to vote to allow cultivators, wholesalers, product manufacturers, and testing laboratories in Vernon?

No. These operations are allowed in all Vermont municipalities and residents do not have the ability to deny these operations from being established in municipalities.

If the vote passes, can another vote be held at a future date to reverse the decision?

Yes. However, any cannabis retailers operating in the Town at the time permission is revoked would be allowed to continue operation.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

Link to the full bill:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/Docs/ACTS/ACT164/ACT164%20As%20Enacted.pdf>

Link to summary of the bill by Vermont League of Cities and Towns (see pages 12 – 14)

<https://www.vlct.org/sites/default/files/supplementary%20wrapup.pdf>

What are the Public Safety Impacts? [https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Department-of-Political-Science/vlrs/Safety/Marijuana Legalization and Traffic Safety .pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Department-of-Political-Science/vlrs/Safety/Marijuana%20Legalization%20and%20Traffic%20Safety.pdf)

What are the Health Impacts?

https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2016/12/ADAP_HIA_Marijuana_Regulation_in_Vermont.pdf