

5546-S.E2 AMH RSG CLOD 288

By Representative Reeves

2ESSB 5546 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Regulated Substances & Gaming

1 On page 1, line 15, after "interest;" strike "and"

2

3 On page 1, line 16, after "(c)" insert "The Washington state  
4 cannabis commission is intended to support social equity efforts in  
5 the cannabis industry, including increasing participation in licensed  
6 cannabis production and licensed cannabis production and processing  
7 under RCW 69.50.325 by persons who reside in, or have resided in, a  
8 disproportionately impacted area, as defined in RCW 69.50.335, or who  
9 are both a socially and economically disadvantaged individual as  
10 defined by the office of minority and women's business enterprises  
11 under chapter 39.19 RCW, with a goal of reducing accumulated harm  
12 suffered by individuals, families, and local areas subject to severe  
13 impacts from the historical application and enforcement of cannabis  
14 prohibition laws; and

15 (d)"

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17 On page 4, line 1, after "(1)" strike "Upon" and insert "Subject  
18 to subsection (8) of this section, upon"

19

20 On page 5, after line 10, insert the following:

21 "(8) No referendum may be conducted under this section until the  
22 director receives written notice from the liquor and cannabis board  
23 that the liquor and cannabis board has issued or reissued the ten  
24 cannabis producer licenses in conjunction with cannabis processor  
25 licenses, pursuant to RCW 69.50.335(1)(b)(ii), to social equity  
26 applicants."

27

1 On page 6, beginning on line 9, after "(11)" strike all material  
2 through "laws" on line 10 and insert "Support Washington state's  
3 policies and work to improve social equity in the cannabis industry  
4 by: (a) Increasing participation in licensed cannabis production and  
5 licensed cannabis production and processing by persons who reside in,  
6 or have resided in, a disproportionately impacted area, as defined in  
7 RCW 69.50.335, or who are both a socially and economically  
8 disadvantaged individual as defined by the office of minority and  
9 women's business enterprises under chapter 39.19 RCW; and (b) raising  
10 awareness about and working to eliminate unconscious bias"

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12 On page 6, beginning on line 18, after "cultivars" strike all  
13 material through "state" one line 19

14  
15 On page 6, beginning on line 23, after "cannabis" strike all  
16 material through "times" on line 25

17  
18 On page 8, line 34, after "member " strike "from any district" and  
19 insert "who became licensed by the liquor and cannabis board pursuant  
20 to the social equity program in RCW 69.50.335"

21  
22 On page 9, line 4, after "(2)" strike "Each" and insert "Except as  
23 provided in subsection (6) of this section, each"

24  
25 On page 9, after line 22, insert the following:  
26 "(5) Commission members shall complete training on unconscious  
27 bias.

28 (6) The member of the commission identified in subsection (1)(b)  
29 of this section is not subject to the requirements in subsection (2)  
30 (d) of this section to be engaged in the active production of cannabis  
31 within this state for a period of three years and have, during that  
32 period, derived a substantial portion of his or her income from  
33 cannabis production."

EFFECT: (1) Adds intent language related to the Washington State Cannabis Commission (Commission) also being intended to support social equity efforts in the cannabis industry.

(2) Specifies that no referendum to establish the Commission may be conducted until the Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) has issued or reissued the ten cannabis producer licenses in conjunction with cannabis processor licenses to social equity applicants, which the LCB may issue or reissue beginning January 1, 2025, pursuant to E2SSB 5080 (2023) (chapter 220, Laws of 2023).

(3) Modifies the Commission's proposed purposes as follows: (a) Eliminates the purpose of fostering conditions favorable to investment in cannabis produced in Washington in accordance with Washington and federal laws; (b) removes a reference to ensuring reliable and economical cannabis product in Washington, in the context of the purpose of discovering and developing new and improved cultivars; (c) removes a reference to ensuring a balanced and sufficient supply of cannabis and cannabis products of good quality during all seasons and at all times, in the context of the purpose of protecting the interest of consumers and Washington by advising on the overall production of cannabis; and (d) adds a purpose of supporting Washington's policies and work to improve social equity in the cannabis industry by increasing participation in licensed cannabis production and licensed cannabis production and processing by persons who reside in, or have resided in, a disproportionately impacted area, or who are both a socially and economically disadvantaged individual as defined by the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises, and raising awareness about and working to eliminate unconscious bias.

(4) Requires Commission members to complete training on unconscious bias.

(5) Specifies that the statewide at-large member of the Commission: (a) Must be licensed through the Cannabis Social Equity Program; and (b) is not subject to the requirements that the member be engaged in the active production of cannabis within Washington for a period of three years and have, during that period, derived a substantial portion of his or her income from cannabis production.

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