



# LAWS OF ALASKA

2015

**Source**

SCS CSHB 123(FIN)

**Chapter No.**

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**AN ACT**

Establishing the Marijuana Control Board; relating to the powers and duties of the Marijuana Control Board; relating to the appointment, removal, and duties of the director of the Marijuana Control Board; relating to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board; and providing for an effective date.

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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1



**AN ACT**

1 Establishing the Marijuana Control Board; relating to the powers and duties of the Marijuana  
2 Control Board; relating to the appointment, removal, and duties of the director of the  
3 Marijuana Control Board; relating to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board; and providing  
4 for an effective date.

5

6 \* **Section 1.** AS 04.06.070 is amended to read:

7           **Sec. 04.06.070. Appointment and removal of director.** The governor shall  
8 appoint a director to serve as the executive officer of the board **and the Marijuana**  
9 **Control Board created under AS 17.38.080. The director may be removed by a**  
10 **majority vote of the full membership of the board and a majority vote of the full**  
11 **membership of the Marijuana Control Board.** The [BOARD MAY REMOVE THE  
12 DIRECTOR AT ITS PLEASURE, AND THE] governor may remove the director for  
13 misconduct, misfeasance, or malfeasance in office. The governor may not remove the  
14 director unless the director is given a copy of the charges and afforded an opportunity

1 to be publicly heard, in person or by counsel, in defense against the charges upon at  
2 least 10 days' notice. If the director is removed for cause, the governor shall file with  
3 the lieutenant governor a complete statement of all charges made against the director  
4 and the findings based on the charges, together with a complete record of any hearing.

5 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 17.38.080 is repealed and reenacted to read:

6 **Sec. 17.38.080. Marijuana Control Board; appointment and qualifications.**

7 (a) The Marijuana Control Board is established in the Department of Commerce,  
8 Community, and Economic Development as a regulatory and quasi-judicial agency.  
9 The board is in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic  
10 Development for administrative purposes only.

11 (b) The board members shall be appointed by the governor and confirmed by a  
12 majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. A member of the board  
13 may not hold any other state or federal office, either elective or appointive. The board  
14 consists of five voting members as follows:

- 15 (1) one person from the public safety sector;  
16 (2) one person from the public health sector;  
17 (3) one person currently residing in a rural area;  
18 (4) one person actively engaged in the marijuana industry; and  
19 (5) one person who is either from the general public or actively  
20 engaged in the marijuana industry.

21 (c) Not more than two members of the board may be engaged in the same  
22 business, occupation, or profession.

23 (d) A board member representing the general public, the public safety sector,  
24 the public health sector, or a rural area, or the member's immediate family member,  
25 may not have a financial interest in the marijuana industry.

26 (e) In this section,

- 27 (1) "financial interest" means holding, directly or indirectly, a legal or  
28 equitable interest in the operation of a business licensed under this chapter;  
29 (2) "immediate family member" means a spouse, child, or parent;  
30 (3) "marijuana industry" means a business or profession related to  
31 marijuana in which the person is lawfully engaged and that is in compliance with the

1 provisions of state law, including this chapter and regulations adopted under this  
2 chapter;

3 (4) "public health sector" means a state, federal, or local entity that  
4 works to ensure the health and safety of persons and communities through education,  
5 policymaking, treatment and prevention of injury and disease, and promotion of  
6 wellness;

7 (5) "public safety sector" means a state, federal, or local law  
8 enforcement authority that provides for the welfare and protection of the general  
9 public through the enforcement of applicable laws;

10 (6) "rural area" means a community with a population of 7,000 or less  
11 that is not connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks, or with a population of  
12 2,000 or less that is connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks.

13 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 17.38 is amended by adding new sections to read:

14 **Sec. 17.38.081. Terms of office; chair.** (a) Members of the board serve  
15 staggered three-year terms.

16 (b) Except as provided in AS 39.05.080(4), a member of the board serves until  
17 a successor is appointed.

18 (c) A vacancy occurring in the membership of the board shall be filled within  
19 30 days by appointment of the governor for the unexpired portion of the vacated term.

20 (d) A member who has served all or part of three successive terms on the  
21 board may not be reappointed to the board unless three years have elapsed since the  
22 person has last served on the board.

23 (e) The board shall select a chair from among its members.

24 **Sec. 17.38.082. Per diem and expenses.** Members of the board do not receive  
25 a salary but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and  
26 commissions under AS 39.20.180.

27 **Sec. 17.38.083. Meetings.** (a) The board shall meet at the call of the chair. The  
28 board shall also meet at least once each year in each judicial district of the state to  
29 study this chapter and existing board regulations in light of statewide and local issues.  
30 Unless impracticable, the board shall hold its regular meetings at the same location as  
31 and within 24 hours of the regular meetings of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

1 (b) Three members of the board constitute a quorum for the conduct of  
2 business. A majority of the whole membership of the board must approve applications  
3 for new licenses, renewals, transfers, suspensions, and revocations of existing licenses,  
4 and product approvals as provided in regulations adopted by the board.

5 **Sec. 17.38.084. Powers and duties of the board.** (a) The board shall control  
6 the cultivation, manufacture, and sale of marijuana in the state. The board is vested  
7 with the powers and duties necessary to enforce this chapter.

8 (b) The board shall

9 (1) propose and adopt regulations;

10 (2) establish by regulation the qualifications for licensure including  
11 fees and factors related to the applicant's experience, criminal justice history, and  
12 financial interests;

13 (3) review applications for licensure made under this chapter and may  
14 order the executive director to issue, renew, suspend, or revoke a license authorized  
15 under this chapter; and

16 (4) hear appeals from actions of the director and from actions of  
17 officers and employees charged with enforcing this chapter and the regulations  
18 adopted under this chapter.

19 (c) When considering an application for licensure, the board may reduce the  
20 area to be designated as the licensed premises from the area applied for if the board  
21 determines that a reduction in area is necessary to ensure control over the sale and  
22 consumption of marijuana on the premises or is otherwise in the public interest.

23 (d) The board shall adopt regulations under this chapter in accordance with  
24 AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act).

25 (e) The board may employ, directly or through contracts with other  
26 departments and agencies of the state, enforcement agents and staff it considers  
27 necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The salaries of personnel of the  
28 board in the exempt service shall be set by the Department of Administration.

29 (f) The board shall promptly notify all licensees and municipalities of major  
30 changes to this chapter and to regulations adopted under this chapter. However, if  
31 changes affect only specific classifications of licenses and permits, the board need

1 only notify those licensees and municipalities directly affected by the changes. Current  
2 copies of this chapter and current copies of the regulations adopted under this chapter  
3 shall be made available at all offices in the state of the Department of Commerce,  
4 Community, and Economic Development and the detachment headquarters and posts  
5 maintained by the division of Alaska state troopers in the Department of Public Safety.

6 **Sec. 17.38.085. Enforcement powers.** The director and the persons employed  
7 for the administration and enforcement of this chapter may, with the concurrence of  
8 the commissioner of public safety, exercise the powers of peace officers when those  
9 powers are specifically granted by the board. Powers granted by the board under this  
10 section may be exercised only when necessary for the enforcement of the criminally  
11 punishable provisions of this chapter, other criminal statutes relating to substances or  
12 activities regulated or permitted under this chapter, regulations of the board, and other  
13 criminally punishable laws and regulations relating to marijuana.

14 **Sec. 17.38.086. Appointment and removal of director; staff.** (a) The director  
15 of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board appointed under AS 04.06.070 shall serve as  
16 the director of the board. The board may remove the director by a majority vote of the  
17 full membership of the board and a majority vote of the full membership of the  
18 Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. The governor may remove the executive director  
19 as provided in AS 04.06.070.

20 (b) The paid staff of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board created in  
21 AS 04.06.010 shall also be the staff for the board.

22 **Sec. 17.38.087. Duties of director.** The director shall enforce this chapter and  
23 regulations adopted by the board. The director shall issue, renew, transfer, suspend, or  
24 revoke all licenses and permits and issue product approvals at the direction of the  
25 board. The board may delegate to the director the authority to temporarily grant or  
26 deny the issuance, renewal, or transfer of licenses and permits. The director's  
27 temporary grant or denial of the issuance, renewal, or transfer of a license or permit is  
28 not binding on the board. The board may delegate to the director any duty imposed by  
29 this chapter except its power to propose and adopt regulations.

30 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 17.38.100 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

31 (i) A marijuana establishment may not be registered under this chapter if a

1 person who is an owner, officer, or agent of the marijuana establishment has been  
2 convicted of a felony and either

3 (1) less than five years have elapsed from the time of the person's  
4 conviction; or

5 (2) the person is currently on probation or parole for that felony.

6 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 17.38.900(1) is amended to read:

7 (1) "board" means the **Marijuana Control Board established by**  
8 **AS 17.38.080** [ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD ESTABLISHED  
9 BY AS 04.06];

10 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 17.38.900 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

11 (15) "director" means the director of the Marijuana Control Board and  
12 the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board;

13 (16) "registration" means registration or licensure, as determined by  
14 regulation.

15 \* **Sec. 7.** AS 44.33.020(a)(45) is amended to read:

16 (45) supply necessary clerical and administrative services for the  
17 Alcoholic Beverage Control Board **and the Marijuana Control Board.**

18 \* **Sec. 8.** AS 44.62.330(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

19 (46) Marijuana Control Board.

20 \* **Sec. 9.** AS 44.66.010(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

21 (13) Marijuana Control Board (AS 17.38.080) - June 30, 2018.

22 \* **Sec. 10.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
23 read:

24 MARIJUANA CONTROL BOARD; STAGGERED TERMS. (a) Notwithstanding  
25 AS 39.05.055, the governor shall appoint the initial members of the Marijuana Control Board  
26 to staggered terms as follows:

27 (1) two members shall be appointed to serve three years;

28 (2) two members shall be appointed to serve two years; and

29 (3) one member shall be appointed to serve one year.

30 (b) Notwithstanding AS 17.38.080(b)(4) and (5), the governor, in making the initial  
31 appointments to the Marijuana Control Board, shall appoint two persons with experience in



1 the marijuana industry obtained through lawful participation in the marijuana industry or  
2 participation in an academic or advocacy role relating to the marijuana industry.

3 \* **Sec. 11.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
4 read:

5       TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. (a) Regulations adopted by the Alcoholic Beverage  
6 Control Board to implement AS 17.38 remain in effect and may continue to be implemented,  
7 enforced, amended, or repealed by the Marijuana Control Board established under  
8 AS 17.38.080, as repealed and reenacted by sec. 2 of this Act.

9       (b) The Marijuana Control Board, established under AS 17.38.080, as repealed and  
10 reenacted by sec. 2 of this Act, may adopt regulations necessary to implement the changes  
11 made by this Act. The regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act),  
12 but not before the effective date of this Act.

13       (c) The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board may carry out the functions of the board  
14 under AS 17.38 as they existed on the day before the effective date of this Act and continue  
15 and complete the process for adoption of regulations proposed but not adopted before the  
16 effective date of this Act until members of the Marijuana Control Board are appointed by the  
17 governor under AS 17.38.080(b), as repealed and reenacted by sec. 2 of this Act.

18 \* **Sec. 12.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).