

C OF C LEGISLATIVE FOCUS #1

CONSOLIDATE CANNABIS AGENT CARD CATEGORIES

Introduction

While existing law does not define or prescribe separate categories of agent cards, the Cannabis Compliance Board has adopted Nevada Cannabis Compliance Regulation (NCCR) 5.150, requiring a single individual to apply for each category of agent card. There are currently eight categories of agent cards in our state.

Statute requires a \$150 fee to apply for or renew a cannabis establishment agent registration card. If someone wishes to work for a cannabis establishment that has both a production and a cultivation license, they typically must obtain and maintain both cannabis establishment agent cards.

This dynamic limits an employer's hiring capabilities, discourages cross-training, and prevents agent card holders from gaining a comprehensive understanding of the supply chain without taking on a significant expense. At an average hourly rate of \$14.06/hour¹, cannabis establishment agents must give up more than a day's worth of wages for each card application they submit to the CCB.

Businesses cannot expect to attract and retain talent if many of our neighboring states do not subject their agents to this redundant and costly practice. Examples of states with something resembling a universal agent card include: Oregon, Colorado, and Arizona.²³⁴

¹ <u>Cannabis: Average Salary in Nevada in 2025</u>

² Employee License Application | Marijuana Enforcement Division

³ Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission : Marijuana Worker Permits

⁴ ADHS - Marijuana Licensing

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In Nevada, the number of active cannabis establishment agent card holders continues to decline every year, and the rate of decline is greater than that of falling sales and decreasing license counts.

Between December 2022⁵ and December 2024⁶, the number of individuals with active cannabis establishment agent cards fell by 20%. As a result, cannabis businesses are



forced to hire from within an increasingly limited talent pool.

While license counts have fallen in the same time period, the rate is much lower. Excluding medical licenses, which are no longer being issued, the number of active retail (non-medical) cannabis establishment licenses dropped by -6% between September 2022⁷ and December 2024⁸.

By eliminating duplicate fees necessary to obtain employment in the industry, there is a greater chance that more professionals will decide to enter or remain in Nevada's cannabis workforce.

| Related Nevada Cannabis Compliance Regulation (NCCR): 5.150

Summary

We aim to modify Nevada Revised Statute so that all cannabis establishment agent cards authorize an employee, volunteer, contractor, or employee of an independent contractor to provide labor to any cannabis establishment in this State regardless of the license type of the establishment.

⁵ <u>CCB Demographic Study - 2023</u> (as of December 2022)

⁶ <u>CCB Demographic Study - 2025</u> (as of December 2024)

⁷ "<u>Cannabis Market Study: Nevada Cannabis Compliance Board"</u>, TPMA (9/23/2024), pg. 9.

⁸ "List of Active Cannabis Licensees", Cannabis Compliance Board (12/11/2024)

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To offset any budget deficit that would occur from eliminating the need for a single individual to obtain multiple agent registration cards, we propose the introduction of a separate fee for cannabis establishment executives and for cannabis establishment receivers. For clarity, C of C suggests minor language changes whereby agent registration cards are separate from executive registration cards and receiver registration cards

PART ONE: Definitions - modify definitions pertaining to cannabis establishment agent cards, replace "agent" with executive (Section 110) and receiver (Section 111), respectively, and omit redundancy.

EXAMPLE: NRS 678A.110 "Cannabis establishment <u>executive-agent</u> registration card for a cannabis executive" defined.)

PART TWO: Requirements for Registration -Remove the distinction between a person who wishes to volunteer or work VS a person who is contracted to provide labor or employed by an independent contractor to provide labor; revise section 2 and remove section 3.

EXAMPLE: NRS 678B.340(2) A person who wishes to volunteer, to contract to provide labor, to be employed by an independent contractor to provide labor to a cannabis establishment, or to work at a cannabis establishment shall [...]

Update registration requirements for executive (NRS 678B.350) and receiver (NRS678B.360) to reflect revised terminology in definitions.

PART THREE: Fees - Modify NRS 678B.390(1) fee schedule to reflect the newly defined categories of cannabis establishment agent cards, increasing the rate for Executives and Receivers to offset budget impact.

Add a provision in Paragraph 8 of NRS 678B.390 to prohibit charging for multiple cards within the same schedule of fees.

8. The Board shall not charge a licensee, registrant or applicant for a license or registration card any fee, cost, fine or other charge that is not expressly authorized by

the provisions of this title. Such prohibited charges include, without limitation, [...] (f) Multiple cannabis establishment agent registration cards for the same person.

Specific Revisions

PART ONE: Definitions

NRS 678A.100 "Cannabis establishment agent" defined.

"Cannabis establishment agent" means an owner, officer, board member, employee or volunteer of a cannabis establishment, an independent contractor who provides labor relating to the cultivation or processing of cannabis or the production of usable cannabis or cannabis products for a cannabis establishment or an employee of such an independent contractor.

NRS 678A.105 "Cannabis establishment agent registration card" defined.

"Cannabis establishment agent registration card" means a registration card that is issued by the Board pursuant to <u>NRS 678B.340</u> to authorize a person:

1. To be an owner, officer or board member of a cannabis establishment; or

2. <u>T</u>to volunteer or work at or contract to provide labor for a cannabis establishment.

NRS 678A.110 "Cannabis establishment <u>executive-agent</u> registration card-for a cannabis executive" defined.

"Cannabis establishment agent registration card for a cannabis executive" means a registration card issued by the Board pursuant to <u>NRS 678B.350</u>.

NRS 678A.112 "Cannabis establishment <u>receiveragent</u> card for a cannabis receiver" defined.

"Cannabis establishment agent registration card for a cannabis receiver" means a registration card issued by the Board pursuant to <u>NRS 678B.355</u>.

PART TWO: Requirements for Registration

NRS 678B.340 Agents required to register with Board; requirements for registration.

A person shall not volunteer or work at, contract to provide labor to or be employed by an independent contractor to provide labor to a cannabis establishment as a cannabis establishment agent unless the person is registered with the Board pursuant to this section.
A person who wishes to volunteer, to contract to provide labor, to be employed by an independent contractor to provide labor or to work at a cannabis establishment shall submit to the Board an application on a form prescribed by the Board. The application must be accompanied by:

(a) The name, address and date of birth of the prospective cannabis establishment agent;

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(b) A statement signed by the prospective cannabis establishment agent pledging not to dispense or otherwise divert cannabis to any person who is not authorized to possess cannabis in accordance with the provisions of this title;

(c) A statement signed by the prospective cannabis establishment agent asserting that he or she has not previously had a cannabis establishment agent registration card revoked;

(d) The application fee, as set forth in NRS 678B.390; and

(e) Such other information as the Board may require by regulation.

3. A person who wishes to contract to provide labor to or be employed by an independent contractor to provide labor to a cannabis establishment shall submit to the Board an application on a form prescribed by the Board for the registration of the independent contractor and each employee of the independent contractor who will provide labor as a cannabis establishment agent. The application must be accompanied by:

(a) The name, address and, if the prospective cannabis establishment agent has a state business license, the business identification number assigned by the Secretary of State upon compliance with the provisions of <u>chapter 76</u> of NRS;

(b) The name, address and date of birth of each employee of the prospective cannabis establishment agent who will provide labor as a cannabis establishment agent;

(c) A statement signed by the prospective cannabis establishment agent pledging not to dispense or otherwise divert cannabis to, or allow any of its employees to dispense or otherwise divert cannabis to, any person who is not authorized to possess cannabis in accordance with the provisions of this title;

(d) A statement signed by the prospective cannabis establishment agent asserting that it has not previously had a cannabis establishment agent registration card revoked and that none of its employees who will provide labor as a cannabis establishment agent have previously had a cannabis establishment agent registration card revoked;

(e) The application fee, as set forth in <u>NRS 678B.390;</u> and

(f) Such other information as the Board may require by regulation.

4.- The Board may conduct any investigation of a prospective cannabis establishment agent and, for an independent contractor, each employee of the prospective cannabis establishment agent who will provide labor as a cannabis establishment agent, that the Board deems appropriate. In connection with such an investigation, the Board may:

(a) Conduct or accept any background check the Board determines to be reliable and expedient to determine the criminal history of the prospective cannabis establishment agent or the employee;

(b) Require a prospective cannabis establishment agent, if a natural person, and each employee of a prospective cannabis establishment agent who will provide labor as a cannabis establishment agent to submit to the Board a complete set of fingerprints and written permission authorizing the Board to forward the fingerprints to the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its report; and

(c) If the Board imposes the requirement described in paragraph (b), submit the fingerprints of the prospective cannabis establishment agent and each employee of the prospective cannabis establishment agent who will provide labor as a cannabis establishment agent to the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its report.

5. <u>4.</u> A cannabis establishment shall notify the Board within 10 business days after a cannabis establishment agent ceases to be employed by, volunteer at or provide labor as a cannabis establishment agent to the cannabis establishment.

- 6.5. Except as otherwise provided in <u>NRS 678B.633</u>, a person who:
 - (a) Has been convicted of an excluded felony offense;

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(b) Is less than 21 years of age; or

(c) Is not qualified, in the determination of the Board pursuant to <u>NRS 678B.200</u>, shall not serve as a cannabis establishment agent.

7.6. The provisions of this section do not require a person who is an owner, officer or board member of a cannabis establishment to resubmit information already furnished to the Board at the time the establishment was licensed with the Board.

8.2. If an applicant for registration as a cannabis establishment agent satisfies the requirements of this section, is found to be qualified by the Board pursuant to <u>NRS 678B.200</u> and is not disqualified from serving as such an agent pursuant to this section or any other applicable law, the Board shall issue to the person and, for an independent contractor, to each person identified in the independent contractor's application for registration as an employee who will provide labor as a cannabis establishment agent, a cannabis establishment agent registration card. If the Board does not act upon an application for a cannabis establishment agent registration shall be deemed conditionally approved until such time as the Board acts upon the application. A cannabis establishment agent registration card expires 2 years after the date of issuance and may be renewed upon:

- (a) Resubmission of the information set forth in this section; and
- (b) Payment of the renewal fee set forth in <u>NRS 678B.390</u>.

9.8. A person to whom a cannabis establishment agent registration card is issued or for whom such a registration card is renewed shall submit to the Board on the date of the first anniversary of the issuance or renewal an affidavit attesting that in the preceding year there has been no change in the information previously provided to the Board which would subject the person to disciplinary action by the Board.

10.<u>9.</u> A cannabis establishment agent registration card issued pursuant to this section to an independent contractor or an employee of an independent contractor authorizes the independent contractor or employee to provide labor to any cannabis establishment in this State.

10. A cannabis establishment agent registration card issued pursuant to this section to a person who wishes to volunteer or work at a cannabis establishment authorizes the person to volunteer or work at any cannabis establishment in this State for which the category of the cannabis establishment agent registration card authorizes the person to volunteer or work.

112: Except as otherwise prescribed by regulation of the Board, an applicant for registration or renewal of registration as a cannabis establishment agent is deemed temporarily registered as a cannabis establishment agent on the date on which a complete application for registration or renewal of registration is submitted to the Board. A temporary registration as a cannabis establishment agent expires 45 days after the date upon which the application is received.

123. A person who holds an ownership interest of less than 5 percent in a cannabis establishment is not required to obtain a cannabis establishment executive agent registration card pursuant to this section. The Board may, in connection with the issuance or renewal of a license pursuant to NRS 678B.210 or 678B.250, conduct such investigations of such a person as the Board determines to be necessary.

NRS 678B.350 Owners with 5 percent or more ownership interest required to register with Board; requirements for registration.

1. In addition to the requirements set forth in <u>NRS 678B.340</u>, a person shall not hold an ownership interest in a cannabis establishment of 5 percent or more unless the person first secures a cannabis establishment <u>executive</u> agent registration card for a cannabis executive issued by the Board.

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2. A person who wishes to hold an ownership interest in a cannabis establishment of 5 percent or more shall submit to the Board an application on a form prescribed by the Board. The application must be accompanied by:

(a) The name, address and date of birth of the applicant;

(b) A statement signed by the applicant asserting that he or she has not previously had acannabis establishment <u>executive</u> agent registration card for a cannabis executive revoked:

(c) A complete set of the fingerprints and written permission of the applicant authorizing the Board to forward the fingerprints to the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its report;

(d) Any information required by the Board to complete an investigation into the background of the applicant, including, without limitation, financial records and other information relating to the business affairs of the applicant;

(e) The application fee, as set forth in NRS 678B.390; and

(f) Such other information as the Board may require by regulation.

3. If the Board determines the applicant is qualified to receive a cannabis establishment <u>executive</u> agent registration card for a cannabis executive pursuant to <u>NRS</u> 678B.200, the Board shall issue to the person a cannabis establishment <u>executive</u> agent registration card for a cannabis executive.

4. A cannabis establishment <u>executive</u> agent registration card for a cannabis executive expires 2 years after the date of issuance and may be renewed upon:

(a) Resubmission of the information set forth in this section; and

(b) Payment of the renewal fee set forth in <u>NRS 678B.390</u>.

5. A person to whom a cannabis establishment <u>executive</u> agent registration card for a <u>cannabis executive</u> is issued or for whom such a registration card is renewed shall submit to the Board on the date of the first anniversary of the issuance or renewal an affidavit attesting that in the preceding year there has been no change in the information previously provided to the Board which would subject the person to disciplinary action by the Board.

(Added to NRS by 2019, 3801)

NRS 678B.355 Receiver for cannabis establishment subject to receivership required to register with Board; requirements for registration.

1. In addition to the requirements set forth in <u>NRS 678B.340</u>, a person shall not act as a receiver for a cannabis establishment subject to a receivership unless the person first secures a cannabis establishment <u>receiver</u> agent registration card for a cannabis receiver issued by the Board.

2. A person who wishes to act as a receiver for a cannabis establishment subject to a receivership shall submit to the Board an application on a form prescribed by the Board. The application must be accompanied by:

(a) The name, address and date of birth of the applicant;

(b) A statement signed by the applicant asserting that he or she has not previously had a cannabis establishment <u>receiver</u> agent registration card for a cannabis receiver revoked;

(c) A complete set of the fingerprints and written permission of the applicant authorizing the Board to forward the fingerprints to the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its report;

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(d) Any information required by the Board to complete an investigation into the background of the applicant;

(e) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has:

(1) Experience in or knowledge of the cannabis industry;

(2) Experience as a receiver appointed by a court;

(3) The knowledge and skills necessary to make reasonable financial decisions with

respect to the finances of a cannabis establishment subject to a receivership; and (4) Adequate financial capacity to fulfill the duties of a receiver;

(f) The application fee, as set forth in <u>NRS 678B.390</u>; and

(g) Such other information as the Board may require by regulation.

3. If the Board determines the applicant is qualified to receive a cannabis establishment <u>receiver</u> agent registration card for a cannabis receiver pursuant to <u>NRS</u> 678B.200, the Board shall issue to the person a cannabis establishment <u>receiver</u> agent registration card for a cannabis receiver.

4. A cannabis establishment <u>receiver</u> agent registration card for a cannabis receiver expires 2 years after the date of issuance and may be renewed upon:

(a) Resubmission of the information set forth in this section; and

(b) Payment of the renewal fee set forth in NRS 678B.390.

5. A person to whom a cannabis establishment **receiver** agent registration card for a cannabis receiver is issued or for whom such a registration card is renewed shall submit to the Board on the date of the first anniversary of the issuance or renewal an affidavit attesting that in the preceding year there has been no change in the information previously provided to the Board which would subject the person to disciplinary action by the Board.

(Added to NRS by 2021, 2141)

PART THREE: Fees

NRS 678B.390 Fees.

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the Board shall collect not more than the following maximum fees:

For the initial issuance of a medical cannabis establishment license for a medical cannabis dispensary
For the renewal of a medical cannabis establishment license for a medical
cannabis dispensary
For the initial issuance of a medical cannabis establishment license for a
medical cannabis cultivation facility
For the renewal of a medical cannabis establishment license for a medical
cannabis cultivation facility 1,000
For the initial issuance of a medical cannabis establishment license for a
medical cannabis production facility
For the renewal of a medical cannabis establishment license for a medical
cannabis production facility

For the initial issuance of a medical cannabis establishment license for a medical cannabis independent testing laboratory5,000 For the renewal of a medical cannabis establishment license for a medical For the initial issuance of an adult-use cannabis establishment license for For the renewal of an adult-use cannabis establishment license for an adult-use cannabis retail store...... 5,000 For the initial issuance of an adult-use cannabis establishment license for For the renewal of an adult-use cannabis establishment license for an For the initial issuance of an adult-use cannabis establishment license for For the renewal of an adult-use cannabis establishment license for an For the initial issuance of an adult-use cannabis establishment license for For the renewal of an adult-use cannabis establishment license for an For the initial issuance of an adult-use cannabis establishment license for For the renewal of an adult-use cannabis establishment license for a retail cannabis consumption lounge...... 10,000 For the initial issuance of an adult-use cannabis establishment license for For the renewal of an adult-use cannabis establishment license for an For the initial issuance of an adult-use cannabis establishment license for For the renewal of an adult-use cannabis establishment license for an adult-use cannabis distributor 5,000 For each person identified in an application for the initial issuance of a cannabis establishment agent registration card......150 For each person identified in an application for the renewal of a cannabis establishment agent registration card......150 For each person identified in an application for the initial issuance of a For each person identified in an application for the renewal of a For each person identified in an application for the initial issuance of a For each person identified in an application for the renewal of a

2. The Board may by regulation establish reduced fees for:

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(a) The initial issuance and renewal of an adult-use cannabis establishment license for an independent cannabis consumption lounge; and

(b) The application fee set forth in subsection 3,

 \rightarrow for a social equity applicant. Such a reduction must not reduce the fee paid by a social equity applicant by more than 75 percent of the fee paid by an applicant who is not a social equity applicant.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, in addition to the fees described in subsection 1, each applicant for a medical cannabis establishment license pursuant to <u>NRS</u> 678B.210 or adult-use cannabis establishment license pursuant to <u>NRS 678B.250</u> must pay to the Board:

(a) For an application for a license other than an adult-use cannabis establishment license for a retail cannabis consumption lounge or independent cannabis consumption lounge, a one-time, nonrefundable application fee of \$5,000;

(b) For an application for an adult-use cannabis establishment license for a retail cannabis consumption lounge, a one-time, nonrefundable application fee of \$100,000;

(c) For an application for an adult-use cannabis establishment license for an independent cannabis consumption lounge, a one-time, nonrefundable application fee of \$10,000; and

(d) The actual costs paid by the Board to a law enforcement agency or other person who is not an employee of the Board to conduct any background checks in connection with the application.

4. The Board may charge a cannabis establishment for the actual costs paid by the Board to a law enforcement agency or other person who is not an employee of the Board to conduct any background checks in connection with a transfer of ownership interest in the cannabis establishment pursuant to the regulations adopted by the Board pursuant to <u>NRS 678B.380</u>.

5. In addition to any other applicable fees described in subsections 1, 3 and 4, the Board may charge a licensee or an applicant for a license the amounts specified in subsection 6 for the costs incurred by the Board and its staff for an investigation conducted in connection with:

(a) A transfer of ownership interest in a cannabis establishment pursuant to the regulations adopted by the Board pursuant to <u>NRS 678B.380</u>;

(b) An application for the initial issuance of a license;

(c) A request to obtain any approval that may be required by the Board to enter into an agreement to provide management services to a cannabis establishment; or

(d) A waiver that is requested pursuant to the provisions of this title or the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

6. The charges authorized by subsection 5 must be limited to:

(a) A reasonable hourly fee at a rate established by the Board by regulation for each hour spent by agents of the Board in conducting the investigation; and

(b) Costs for the travel expenses and per diem allowances of the agents of the Board conducting the investigation. The per diem allowances and travel expenses must be assessed at the rate established by the State Board of Examiners for state officers and employees generally.

7. Any revenue generated from the fees imposed pursuant to this section:

(a) Must be expended first to pay the costs of the Board in carrying out the provisions of this title; and

(b) If any excess revenue remains after paying the costs described in paragraph (a), such excess revenue must be paid over to the State Treasurer to be deposited to the credit of the State Education Fund.

8. The Board shall not charge a licensee, registrant or applicant for a license or registration card any fee, cost, fine or other charge that is not expressly authorized by the provisions of this title. Such prohibited charges include, without limitation, any charge for the costs of ongoing activities of the Board relating to the oversight of a cannabis establishment, including, without limitation, any charge for costs relating to:

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, travel or lodging for an agent of the Board;

(b) Any routine inspection or audit;

(c) The preparation for and attendance at a hearing by an agent of the Board;

(d) An investigation of a complaint submitted to the Board by a person who is not associated with the Board; or

(e) Except as otherwise provided in subsections 3, 4 and 5, any other type of inspection, audit or investigation.

(f) Multiple cannabis establishment agent registration cards within the same fee schedule.

(Added to NRS by 2019, 3803; A 2021, 2365; 2023, 2566, 2718)