

PHILIP D. MURPHY Governor

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Lt. Governor

CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION P.O. BOX 216 TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0216

DIANNA HOUENOU, Chair
KRISTA NASH, Commissioner
MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO, Commissioner
SAMUEL DELGADO, Vice Chair
CHARLES BARKER, Commissioner
CHRIS RIGGS, Acting Executive Director

RESOLUTION 2024-<u>298</u> IMPOSITION OF SOCIAL EQUITY EXCISE FEES ON CLASS 1 CANNABIS CULTIVATORS FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR YEAR

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:47F-1(a), there may be a Social Equity Excise Fee imposed by the Commission on the cultivation of cannabis by any cannabis cultivator licensed pursuant to the provisions P.L.2021, c.16 (C.24:6I-31 et al.), or on the cultivation of cannabis for the personal-use cannabis marketplace and not for the medical cannabis marketplace by any alternative treatment center deemed to be licensed to engage in personal-use cannabis activities pursuant to section 7 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-7) and issued a Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator license by the Commission pursuant to N.J.S.A. 24:6I-46; and

WHEREAS, the excise fee, if imposed by the Commission, shall be imposed on the receipts from the sale, or equivalent value of the transfer, of usable cannabis by a cannabis cultivator to any other cannabis establishment, other than another cannabis cultivator; and

WHEREAS, any sale by a cannabis cultivator for which the excise fee is imposed shall be exempt from the tax imposed under the "Sales and Use Tax Act," P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-1 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-3.4(b), effective August 19, 2021, until the fee is adjusted pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-3.4(c), the Social Equity Excise Fee shall be 1/3 of one percent of the Statewide average retail price of an ounce of usable cannabis for consumer purchase, during the current calendar year, as determined by the Commission.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-3.4(c), beginning nine months following the first sale or transfer of usable cannabis subject to a Social Equity Excise Fee by a cannabis cultivator that is not part of an expanded ATC and continuing annually, the excise fee shall be as follows:

- 1. If the average retail price of an ounce of usable cannabis in the current calendar year is \$ 350.00 or more, the excise fee shall be:
 - i. \$ 10.00 per ounce of usable cannabis; and
 - ii. \$ 3.00 per ounce of unusable cannabis sold for the purpose of manufacturing;

- 2. If the average retail price of an ounce of usable cannabis in the current calendar year is at least \$250.00, but less than \$350.00, the excise fee shall be:
 - i. \$ 30.00 per ounce of usable cannabis; and
 - ii. \$ 8.00 per ounce of unusable cannabis sold for the purpose of manufacturing;
- 3. If the average retail price of an ounce of usable cannabis in the current calendar year is at least \$ 200.00, but less than \$ 250.00, the excise fee shall be:
 - i. \$ 40.00 per ounce of usable cannabis; and
- ii. \$12.00 per ounce of unusable cannabis sold for the purpose of manufacturing; and
- 4. If the average retail price of an ounce of usable cannabis in the current calendar year is less than \$ 200.00, the excise fee shall be:
 - i. \$ 60.00 per ounce of usable cannabis; and
- ii. \$ 18.00 per ounce of unusable cannabis sold for the purpose of manufacturing; and
- **WHEREAS**, as of August 31, 2024, the statewide average retail price of an ounce of usable cannabis was \$330.68 per ounce; and
- **WHEREAS**, the Commission determined that a waiver of N.J.A.C. 17:30-3.4(c) is necessary to achieve the purposes of P.L.2021, c.16, is necessary to provide consumers access to cannabis items, and does not create a danger to public health, safety, or welfare; and
- WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:47F-1(a)(2)(b), gives the Commission the discretion to set the Social Equity Excise Fee at "up to \$30 per ounce . . . if the average retail price of an ounce of usable cannabis was less than \$350 but at least \$250." (emphasis added); and
- **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** by the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:47F-1(a)(2)(b), that for the 2025 calendar year, beginning January 1, 2025, the Social Equity Excise Fee is adjusted to \$2.50 per ounce for all sales or transfers of usable cannabis by a cannabis cultivator to any other cannabis establishment, other than another cannabis cultivator, and \$2.50 per ounce of unusable cannabis sold for the purpose of manufacturing. This Social Equity Excise Fee applies to all licensed Class 1 cultivators, including cultivators of cannabis establishments that are "vertically integrated."
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission's waiver of N.J.A.C. 17:30-3.4(d), adopted via Resolution 2024-297, is hereby rescinded.

Submitted by:

Dianna Houenou, Chair

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Cannabis Regulatory Commission at its meeting held on the 12th day of December 2024.

Dave Tuason, Chief Counsel

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Vote on the Approval of This Resolution	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Barker					X	
Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso		X	X			
Commissioner Delgado			X			
Chairwoman Houenou	X		X			
Commissioner Nash			X			