

MARIJUANA LICENSING REVIEW

Reid B. Betzing,
City Attorney

MAY 7, 2024



BACKGROUND

- *On November 7, 2000, Colorado voters approved Amendment 20 which allowed for the use of marijuana for approved patients with written medical consent.*
- *Littleton began allowing medical marijuana sales in 2010 and currently allows for up to 4 medical marijuana licenses.*
- *In November of 2012, Colorado voters approved Amendment 64 which allowed for the recreational use and retail sale of marijuana, with the effective date for commercial sales being January 1, 2014*
- *Pursuant to Amendment 64, local governments could decide whether to allow sales in their jurisdictions.*

BACKGROUND

- *In November of 2012, Colorado voters approved Amendment 64 which allowed for the recreational use and retail sale of marijuana, with the effective date for commercial sales beginning January 1, 2014.*
- *In October of 2013, Littleton, like many jurisdictions, imposed a moratorium on the commercial sale of marijuana while the City digested the state's regulatory structure and impacts to the community.*
- *In November of 2013 voters approved ballot issue 2E which authorized an additional 3% sales tax on the retail sale of marijuana*
- *In 2014, Littleton City Council, by a vote of 4-3, voted to prohibit retail marijuana businesses*



BACKGROUND

- *In May of 2016, Littleton City Council again reaffirmed the ban on retail sales by a vote of 5-1.*
- *November of 2020, a citizen initiative led to ballot question 300 for retail sales which passed with 64% of the vote.*

CURRENT LICENSING FOR MARIJUANA SALES

- In 2010, the City adopted business licensing provisions for medical marijuana sales, which were later applied to retail marijuana sales in 2020.
- The licensing provisions outside of administrative provisions related to the license and security and operations plans also established the following:

CURRENT LICENSING FOR MARIJUANA SALES

- Limitation on Number of Licenses: 4 medical and 3 retail.
- Prohibited locations e.g. within 1,000 feet of school, park, halfway house or other marijuana center
- Established Hours of operation from 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.
- Established maximum floor plans of 2,000 sq ft.
- Established maximum of 2oz for medical patient.
*HB 21-1317 allowed for limits in excess of 2oz with physician certification

LICENSE PROVISION COMPARISONS

City	Hours of Operation	Square Footage Max	Quantity Restriction For Medical
LITTLETON	9:00 A.M. – 10:00 P.M.	2000 sq ft	2 oz *
Englewood	8:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.		State Law
Sheridan	8:00 A.M. – 10:00 P.M.		State Law
Lakewood	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 A.M.		State Law
Aurora	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 A.M.		State Law
Boulder	8:00 A.M. – 10:00 P.M.	3000 sq ft	State Law
Denver	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 A.M.		State Law
Fort Collins	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 A.M.		State Law
Wheat Ridge	8:00 A.M. – 10:00 P.M.		State Law
Broomfield	8:00 A.M. – 10:00 P.M.		State Law
Commerce City	8:00 A.M. – 10:00 P.M. Medical 8AM – 7PM		State Law
Thornton	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 A.M.		State Law
Northglenn	8:00 A.M. – 10:00 P.M.		State Law
Brighton	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 A.M.		State Law
Lafayette	8:00 A.M. – 10:00 P.M.	3000 sq ft	State Law

DIRECTION REQUESTED FROM COUNCIL

	Current regulation	If Council considers update, suggested provision
Hours of operation	9:00 A.M. – 10:00 P.M.	<p>8:00 A.M.– ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing times vary across communities • State law allows for 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 A.M. • Liquor stores also allowed 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 A.M
Square footage max	2000 sq. ft.	<p>4000 sq. ft.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would mark incremental increase while limiting potential unintended consequences associated with no limit. • Would accommodate envisioned expansion by existing retailer
Quantity restriction for medical	2 oz., or amount prescribed by physician, per HB 21-1317	State law (amount prescribed by physician)