

**SHB 1551** - H AMD 113

By Representative Reeves

**ADOPTED 03/05/2025**

1 On page 1, beginning on line 15, after "appropriate" strike all  
2 material through "program" on line 17

3  
4 On page 1, line 19, after "2034" insert ", and remove a  
5 restriction on the issuance of grants to cannabis licensees who meet  
6 the social equity applicant criteria"

7  
8 On page 2, beginning on line 8, after "(1)(a)" strike all material  
9 through "until" on line 9 and insert "~~((Beginning December 1, 2020,~~  
10 ~~and until))~~ Until"

11  
12 On page 2, beginning on line 19, after "subsection," strike all  
13 material through "section," on line 20

14  
15 On page 4, beginning on line 12, after "(6)" strike all material  
16 through "(b)" on line 18

17  
18 On page 4, at the beginning of line 27, strike "(i)" and insert  
19 "(a)"

20  
21 On page 4, at the beginning of line 31, strike "(ii)" and insert  
22 "(b)"

23  
24 On page 4, at the beginning of line 38, strike "(iii)" and insert  
25 "(c)"

26  
27

1 On page 5, at the beginning of line 3, strike "(iv)" and insert  
2 "(d)"

3  
4 On page 5, at the beginning of line 7, strike "(v)" and insert  
5 "(e)"

6 On page 5, at the beginning of line 12, strike "(vi)" and insert  
7 "(f)"

8  
9 On page 5, beginning on line 32, strike all of subsection (c)

10 On page 6, after line 40, insert the following:  
11

12 "**Sec. 3.** RCW 43.330.540 and 2023 c 220 s 1 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 (1) The cannabis social equity technical assistance grant  
15 program is established and is to be administered by the department.

16 (2)(a) The cannabis social equity technical assistance grant  
17 program must award grants to:

18 (i) Cannabis license applicants who are social equity applicants  
19 as defined in RCW 69.50.335 submitting social equity plans as  
20 defined in RCW 69.50.101; and

21 (ii) Cannabis licensees (~~(holding a license issued after April~~  
22 ~~1, 2023, and before July 1, 2024,)~~) who meet the social equity  
23 applicant criteria under RCW 69.50.335.

24 (b) Grant recipients under this subsection (2) must demonstrate  
25 completion of their project within 12 months of receiving a grant,  
26 unless a grant recipient requests, and the department approves,  
27 additional time to complete the project.

28 (3) The department must award grants primarily based on the  
29 strength of the social equity plans submitted by cannabis license  
30 applicants and cannabis licensees (~~(holding a license issued after~~  
31 ~~April 1, 2023, and before July 1, 2024)~~) identified in subsection (2)  
32 (a) of this section, but may also consider additional criteria if  
33 deemed necessary or appropriate by the department. Technical  
34

1 assistance activities eligible for funding include, but are not  
2 limited to:

3 (a) Assistance navigating the cannabis licensure process;

4 (b) Cannabis-business specific education and business plan  
5 development;

6 (c) Regulatory compliance training;

7 (d) Financial management training and assistance in seeking  
8 financing;

9 (e) Strengthening a social equity plan as defined in RCW  
10 69.50.101; and

11 (f) Connecting social equity applicants with established  
12 industry members and tribal cannabis enterprises and programs for  
13 mentoring and other forms of support.

14 (4) The department may contract to establish a roster of mentors  
15 who are available to support and advise social equity applicants and  
16 current licensees who meet the social equity applicant criteria  
17 under RCW 69.50.335. Contractors under this section must:

18 (a) Have knowledge and experience demonstrating their ability to  
19 effectively advise eligible applicants and licensees in navigating  
20 the state's licensing and regulatory framework or on producing and  
21 processing cannabis;

22 (b) Be a business that is at least 51 percent minority or woman-  
23 owned; and

24 (c) Meet department reporting and invoicing requirements.

25 (5) Funding for the cannabis social equity technical assistance  
26 grant program must be provided under RCW 69.50.540. Additionally,  
27 the department may solicit, receive, and expend private  
28 contributions to support the grant program.

29 (6) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

30 (7) For the purposes of this section, "cannabis" has the meaning  
31 provided under RCW 69.50.101."

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33 Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any  
34 internal references accordingly.

EFFECT: Removes the proposed restriction on the Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) opening a new license application window under the Cannabis Social Equity Program (Program) while retaining the proposed requirement for an evaluation of the Program to be completed by December 1, 2025. Removes the restriction in the Cannabis Social Equity Technical Assistance Grant Program that the only cannabis licensees eligible for grants are cannabis licensees holding a license issued after April 1, 2023, and before July 1, 2024, who meet the social equity applicant criteria. Enables social equity applicants and cannabis licensees who meet the social equity applicant criteria, without restriction on their date of licensure, to be eligible for grants.

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