

ESHB 1551 - S AMD 343
By Senator Saldaña

PULLED 04/16/2025

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to extend and
4 evaluate the cannabis social equity program, and conduct a review and
5 analysis of the first round of licensing and grant awards that was
6 recently conducted before 2025, to support the successful
7 implementation of the cannabis social equity program. By requiring
8 the liquor and cannabis board, in consultation with the department of
9 commerce when appropriate, to evaluate the cannabis social equity
10 program as provided in this act and submit a report with findings and
11 policy options to the governor and legislature by December 1, 2025,
12 the legislature will have an opportunity in the 2026 legislative
13 session to make any policy changes the legislature deems appropriate.
14 The legislature also intends to extend the cannabis social equity
15 program an additional two years until July 1, 2034, and remove a
16 restriction on the issuance of grants to cannabis licensees who meet
17 the social equity applicant criteria. The evaluation required by this
18 act must include opportunities for public feedback, and the
19 identification of any provisions of law or rule and any economic,
20 market, or practical factors that effectively prevent or hinder the
21 successful opening, operation, and business success of cannabis
22 businesses licensed under the cannabis social equity program. This
23 will provide the legislature with information to ensure policies are
24 in place to support successful and efficient implementation of the
25 program.

26 **Sec. 2.** RCW 69.50.331 and 2023 c 220 s 2 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 (1) For the purpose of considering any application for a license
29 to produce, process, research, transport, or deliver cannabis,
30 useable cannabis, cannabis concentrates, or cannabis-infused products
31 subject to the regulations established under RCW 69.50.385, or sell

1 cannabis, or for the renewal of a license to produce, process,
2 research, transport, or deliver cannabis, useable cannabis, cannabis
3 concentrates, or cannabis-infused products subject to the regulations
4 established under RCW 69.50.385, or sell cannabis, the board must
5 conduct a comprehensive, fair, and impartial evaluation of the
6 applications timely received.

7 (a) The board may cause an inspection of the premises to be made,
8 and may inquire into all matters in connection with the construction
9 and operation of the premises. For the purpose of reviewing any
10 application for a license and for considering the denial, suspension,
11 revocation, cancellation, or renewal or denial thereof, of any
12 license, the board may consider any prior criminal arrests or
13 convictions of the applicant, any public safety administrative
14 violation history record with the board, and a criminal history
15 record information check. The board may submit the criminal history
16 record information check to the Washington state patrol and to the
17 identification division of the federal bureau of investigation in
18 order that these agencies may search their records for prior arrests
19 and convictions of the individual or individuals who filled out the
20 forms. The board must require fingerprinting of any applicant whose
21 criminal history record information check is submitted to the federal
22 bureau of investigation. The provisions of RCW 9.95.240 and of
23 chapter 9.96A RCW do not apply to these cases. Subject to the
24 provisions of this section, the board may, in its discretion, grant
25 or deny the renewal or license applied for. Denial may be based on,
26 without limitation, the existence of chronic illegal activity
27 documented in objections submitted pursuant to subsections (7)(c) and
28 (10) of this section. Authority to approve an uncontested or
29 unopposed license may be granted by the board to any staff member the
30 board designates in writing. Conditions for granting this authority
31 must be adopted by rule.

32 (b) No license of any kind may be issued to:

33 (i) A person under the age of 21 years;

34 (ii) A person doing business as a sole proprietor who has not
35 lawfully resided in the state for at least six months prior to
36 applying to receive a license;

37 (iii) A partnership, employee cooperative, association, nonprofit
38 corporation, or corporation unless formed under the laws of this
39 state, and unless all of the members thereof are qualified to obtain
40 a license as provided in this section; or

1 (iv) A person whose place of business is conducted by a manager
2 or agent, unless the manager or agent possesses the same
3 qualifications required of the licensee.

4 (2)(a) The board may, in its discretion, subject to RCW
5 43.05.160, 69.50.563, 69.50.562, 69.50.334, and 69.50.342(3) suspend
6 or cancel any license; and all protections of the licensee from
7 criminal or civil sanctions under state law for producing,
8 processing, researching, or selling cannabis, cannabis concentrates,
9 useable cannabis, or cannabis-infused products thereunder must be
10 suspended or terminated, as the case may be.

11 (b) The board must immediately suspend the license of a person
12 who has been certified pursuant to RCW 74.20A.320 by the department
13 of social and health services as a person who is not in compliance
14 with a support order. If the person has continued to meet all other
15 requirements for reinstatement during the suspension, reissuance of
16 the license is automatic upon the board's receipt of a release issued
17 by the department of social and health services stating that the
18 licensee is in compliance with the order.

19 (c) The board may request the appointment of administrative law
20 judges under chapter 34.12 RCW who shall have power to administer
21 oaths, issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the
22 production of papers, books, accounts, documents, and testimony,
23 examine witnesses, receive testimony in any inquiry, investigation,
24 hearing, or proceeding in any part of the state, and consider
25 mitigating and aggravating circumstances in any case and deviate from
26 any prescribed penalty, under rules the board may adopt.

27 (d) Witnesses must be allowed fees and mileage each way to and
28 from any inquiry, investigation, hearing, or proceeding at the rate
29 authorized by RCW 34.05.446. Fees need not be paid in advance of
30 appearance of witnesses to testify or to produce books, records, or
31 other legal evidence.

32 (e) In case of disobedience of any person to comply with the
33 order of the board or a subpoena issued by the board, or any of its
34 members, or administrative law judges, or on the refusal of a witness
35 to testify to any matter regarding which he or she may be lawfully
36 interrogated, the judge of the superior court of the county in which
37 the person resides, on application of any member of the board or
38 administrative law judge, compels obedience by contempt proceedings,
39 as in the case of disobedience of the requirements of a subpoena
40 issued from said court or a refusal to testify therein.

1 (3) Upon receipt of notice of the suspension or cancellation of a
2 license, the licensee must forthwith deliver up the license to the
3 board. Where the license has been suspended only, the board must
4 return the license to the licensee at the expiration or termination
5 of the period of suspension. The board must notify all other
6 licensees in the county where the subject licensee has its premises
7 of the suspension or cancellation of the license; and no other
8 licensee or employee of another licensee may allow or cause any
9 cannabis, cannabis concentrates, useable cannabis, or cannabis-
10 infused products to be delivered to or for any person at the premises
11 of the subject licensee.

12 (4) Every license issued under this chapter is subject to all
13 conditions and restrictions imposed by this chapter or by rules
14 adopted by the board to implement and enforce this chapter. All
15 conditions and restrictions imposed by the board in the issuance of
16 an individual license must be listed on the face of the individual
17 license along with the trade name, address, and expiration date.

18 (5) Every licensee must post and keep posted its license, or
19 licenses, in a conspicuous place on the premises.

20 (6) No licensee may employ any person under the age of 21 years.

21 (7)(a) Before the board issues a new or renewed license to an
22 applicant it must give notice of the application to the chief
23 executive officer of the incorporated city or town, if the
24 application is for a license within an incorporated city or town, or
25 to the county legislative authority, if the application is for a
26 license outside the boundaries of incorporated cities or towns, or to
27 the tribal government if the application is for a license within
28 Indian country, or to the port authority if the application for a
29 license is located on property owned by a port authority.

30 (b) The incorporated city or town through the official or
31 employee selected by it, the county legislative authority or the
32 official or employee selected by it, the tribal government, or port
33 authority has the right to file with the board within twenty days
34 after the date of transmittal of the notice for applications, or at
35 least thirty days prior to the expiration date for renewals, written
36 objections against the applicant or against the premises for which
37 the new or renewed license is asked. The board may extend the time
38 period for submitting written objections upon request from the
39 authority notified by the board.

1 (c) The written objections must include a statement of all facts
2 upon which the objections are based, and in case written objections
3 are filed, the city or town or county legislative authority may
4 request, and the board may in its discretion hold, a hearing subject
5 to the applicable provisions of Title 34 RCW. If the board makes an
6 initial decision to deny a license or renewal based on the written
7 objections of an incorporated city or town or county legislative
8 authority, the applicant may request a hearing subject to the
9 applicable provisions of Title 34 RCW. If a hearing is held at the
10 request of the applicant, board representatives must present and
11 defend the board's initial decision to deny a license or renewal.

12 (d) Upon the granting of a license under this title the board
13 must send written notification to the chief executive officer of the
14 incorporated city or town in which the license is granted, or to the
15 county legislative authority if the license is granted outside the
16 boundaries of incorporated cities or towns.

17 (8) (a) Except as provided in (b) through (e) of this subsection,
18 the board may not issue a license for any premises within 1,000 feet
19 of the perimeter of the grounds of any elementary or secondary
20 school, playground, recreation center or facility, child care center,
21 public park, public transit center, or library, or any game arcade
22 admission to which is not restricted to persons aged 21 years or
23 older.

24 (b) A city, county, or town may permit the licensing of premises
25 within 1,000 feet but not less than 100 feet of the facilities
26 described in (a) of this subsection, except elementary schools,
27 secondary schools, and playgrounds, by enacting an ordinance
28 authorizing such distance reduction, provided that such distance
29 reduction will not negatively impact the jurisdiction's civil
30 regulatory enforcement, criminal law enforcement interests, public
31 safety, or public health.

32 (c) A city, county, or town may permit the licensing of research
33 premises allowed under RCW 69.50.372 within 1,000 feet but not less
34 than 100 feet of the facilities described in (a) of this subsection
35 by enacting an ordinance authorizing such distance reduction,
36 provided that the ordinance will not negatively impact the
37 jurisdiction's civil regulatory enforcement, criminal law
38 enforcement, public safety, or public health.

39 (d) The board may license premises located in compliance with the
40 distance requirements set in an ordinance adopted under (b) or (c) of

1 this subsection. Before issuing or renewing a research license for
2 premises within 1,000 feet but not less than 100 feet of an
3 elementary school, secondary school, or playground in compliance with
4 an ordinance passed pursuant to (c) of this subsection, the board
5 must ensure that the facility:

6 (i) Meets a security standard exceeding that which applies to
7 cannabis producer, processor, or retailer licensees;

8 (ii) Is inaccessible to the public and no part of the operation
9 of the facility is in view of the general public; and

10 (iii) Bears no advertising or signage indicating that it is a
11 cannabis research facility.

12 (e) The board must issue a certificate of compliance if the
13 premises met the requirements under (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this
14 subsection on the date of the application. The certificate allows the
15 licensee to operate the business at the proposed location
16 notwithstanding a later occurring, otherwise disqualifying factor.

17 (f) The board may not issue a license for any premises within
18 Indian country, as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151, including any fee
19 patent lands within the exterior boundaries of a reservation, without
20 the consent of the federally recognized tribe associated with the
21 reservation or Indian country.

22 (g) A city, town, or county may not require retail cannabis
23 premises when licensed under RCW 69.50.335(1) to locate more than 250
24 feet from the premises of any other cannabis retail license.

25 (9) A city, town, or county may adopt an ordinance prohibiting a
26 cannabis producer or cannabis processor from operating or locating a
27 business within areas zoned primarily for residential use or rural
28 use with a minimum lot size of five acres or smaller.

29 (10) In determining whether to grant or deny a license or renewal
30 of any license, the board must give substantial weight to objections
31 from an incorporated city or town or county legislative authority
32 based upon chronic illegal activity associated with the applicant's
33 operations of the premises proposed to be licensed or the applicant's
34 operation of any other licensed premises, or the conduct of the
35 applicant's patrons inside or outside the licensed premises. "Chronic
36 illegal activity" means (a) a pervasive pattern of activity that
37 threatens the public health, safety, and welfare of the city, town,
38 or county including, but not limited to, open container violations,
39 assaults, disturbances, disorderly conduct, or other criminal law
40 violations, or as documented in crime statistics, police reports,

1 emergency medical response data, calls for service, field data, or
2 similar records of a law enforcement agency for the city, town,
3 county, or any other municipal corporation or any state agency; or
4 (b) an unreasonably high number of citations for violations of RCW
5 46.61.502 associated with the applicant's or licensee's operation of
6 any licensed premises as indicated by the reported statements given
7 to law enforcement upon arrest.

8 (11) The board may not issue a cannabis retail license for any
9 premises not currently licensed if:

10 (a) The board receives a written objection from the legislative
11 authority of an incorporated city or town, or county legislative
12 authority, relating to the physical location of the proposed
13 premises;

14 (b) The objection to the location from the incorporated city or
15 town, or county legislative authority, is received by the board
16 within 20 days of the board notifying the incorporated city or town,
17 or county legislative authority, of the proposed cannabis retail
18 location; and

19 (c) The objection to the issuance of a cannabis retail license at
20 the specified location is based on a preexisting local ordinance
21 limiting outlet density in a specific geographic area. For purposes
22 of this subsection (11), a preexisting local ordinance is an
23 ordinance enacted and in effect before the date the applicant submits
24 an application for a cannabis retail license to the board identifying
25 the premises proposed to be licensed. No objection related to the
26 physical location of a proposed premises may be made by a local
27 government under this subsection (11) based on a local ordinance
28 enacted after the date the applicant submits an application for a
29 cannabis retail license to the board identifying the premises
30 proposed to be licensed.

31 (12) After January 1, 2024, all cannabis licensees are encouraged
32 but are not required to submit a social equity plan to the board.
33 Upon confirmation by the board that a cannabis licensee who is not a
34 social equity applicant, and who does not hold a social equity
35 license issued under RCW 69.50.335, has submitted a social equity
36 plan, the board must within 30 days reimburse such a licensee an
37 amount equal to the cost of the licensee's annual cannabis license
38 renewal fee. The license renewal fee reimbursement authorized under
39 this subsection is subject to the following limitations:

1 (a) The board may provide reimbursement one time only to any
2 licensed entity; and

3 (b) Any licensed entity holding more than one cannabis license is
4 eligible for reimbursement of the license renewal fee on only one
5 license.

6 **Sec. 3.** RCW 69.50.335 and 2023 c 220 s 3 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) (a) (~~Beginning December 1, 2020, and until~~) Until July 1,
9 (~~2032~~) 2034, cannabis retailer licenses, cannabis processor
10 licenses, and cannabis producer licenses that have been subject to
11 forfeiture, revocation, or cancellation by the board, or cannabis
12 retailer licenses that were not previously issued by the board but
13 could have been issued without exceeding the limit on the statewide
14 number of cannabis retailer licenses established before January 1,
15 2020, by the board, may be issued or reissued to an applicant who
16 meets the cannabis retailer license, cannabis processor license, or
17 cannabis producer license requirements of this chapter.

18 (b) In accordance with (a) of this subsection, the board may
19 issue or reissue:

20 (i) Up to 100 cannabis processor licenses immediately; and

21 (ii) Beginning January 1, 2025, up to 10 cannabis producer
22 licenses, which must be issued in conjunction with a cannabis
23 processor license.

24 (c) In addition to the cannabis retailer licenses and cannabis
25 producer licenses that may be issued under (a) and (b) of this
26 subsection, beginning January 1, 2023, and continuing every three
27 years until July 1, (~~2032~~) 2034, the board may, with the approval
28 of the legislature through the passage of a bill, increase the number
29 of cannabis retailer licenses and cannabis producer licenses for the
30 social equity program based on:

31 (i) The most recent census data available as of January 1, 2023;
32 and

33 (ii) The annual population estimates published by the office of
34 financial management.

35 (d) In addition to the cannabis retailer licenses that may be
36 issued under (a) of this subsection, beginning January 1, 2024, and
37 until July 1, (~~2032~~) 2034, the board may issue up to 52 cannabis
38 retailer licenses for the social equity program.

1 (e)(i) At the time of licensure, all licenses issued under the
2 social equity program under this section may be located in any city,
3 town, or county in the state that allows cannabis retail, cannabis
4 production, or cannabis processing business activities, as
5 applicable, at the proposed location, regardless of:

6 (A) Whether a cannabis retailer license, cannabis producer
7 license, or cannabis processor license was originally allocated to or
8 issued in another city, town, or county; and

9 (B) The maximum number of retail cannabis licenses established by
10 the board for each county under RCW 69.50.345.

11 (ii) The board must adopt rules establishing a threshold of the
12 number of licenses created by this section that can be located in
13 each county.

14 (f) After a social equity license has been issued under this
15 section for a specific location, the location of the licensed
16 business may not be moved to a city, town, or county different from
17 the city, town, or county for which it was initially licensed.

18 (2)(a) In order to be considered for a cannabis retailer license,
19 cannabis processor license, or cannabis producer license under
20 subsection (1) of this section, an applicant must be a social equity
21 applicant and submit required cannabis license materials to the
22 board. If the application proposes ownership by more than one person,
23 then at least 51 percent of the proposed ownership structure must
24 reflect the qualifications of a social equity applicant.

25 (b) Persons holding an existing cannabis retailer license or
26 title certificate for a cannabis retailer business in a local
27 jurisdiction subject to a ban or moratorium on cannabis retail
28 businesses may apply for a license under this section.

29 (3)(a) In determining the priority for issuance of a license
30 among applicants, the board must select a third-party contractor to
31 identify and score social equity applicants, using a scoring rubric
32 developed by the board. The board must rely on the score provided by
33 the third-party contractor in issuing licenses.

34 (b) The board may deny any application submitted under this
35 subsection if:

36 (i) The board determines that, upon the advice of the third-party
37 contractor, the application does not meet the social equity licensing
38 requirements of this chapter; or

39 (ii) The board determines the application does not otherwise meet
40 licensing requirements.

1 (4) The board must adopt rules to implement this section. Prior
2 to adopting any rule implementing this section, the board must
3 consider advice on the social equity program from individuals the
4 program is intended to benefit. Rules may also require that licenses
5 awarded under this section only be transferred to or assumed by
6 individuals or groups of individuals who comply with the requirements
7 for initial licensure as a social equity applicant for a period of at
8 least five years from the date of initial licensure.

9 (5) The annual fee for issuance, reissuance, or renewal for any
10 license under this section must be waived through July 1, ((2032))
11 2034.

12 (6) By December 1, 2025, and within existing resources, the
13 board, in consultation with the department of commerce when specified
14 in this subsection, shall evaluate the cannabis social equity program
15 as provided in this subsection and submit a report to the governor
16 and appropriate committees of the legislature with findings and
17 policy options. In conducting the evaluation, the board shall provide
18 opportunities for public comment on the cannabis social equity
19 program from communities throughout Washington. The evaluation must
20 include the following components:

21 (a) A review of feedback received by the board in public comments
22 while the board implements this subsection from individuals the
23 program is intended to benefit, the public, and the cannabis
24 industry;

25 (b) An examination of the issuance and reissuance of cannabis
26 retailer licenses that began before January 1, 2025, under the
27 provisions of chapter 236, Laws of 2020, including a comparative
28 analysis of the applicants who successfully secured a location and
29 were issued a cannabis retailer license relative to applicants who
30 remain pending but were issued a preliminary letter of approval by
31 the board;

32 (c) An examination, in consultation with the department of
33 commerce, of the awarding of grants and the provision of mentorship
34 under RCW 43.330.540 and opportunities for the alignment of the
35 board's implementation of this section with the department of
36 commerce's implementation of RCW 43.330.540;

37 (d) The demographic information about owners of licensed cannabis
38 businesses who became licensed under the cannabis social equity
39 program to the extent such information is available or obtainable by
40 the board;

1 (e) The identification of any provisions of law or rule and any
2 economic, market, or practical factors that effectively prevent or
3 hinder the successful opening, operation, and business success of
4 cannabis businesses licensed under the cannabis social equity
5 program; and

6 (f) An examination of the impact of provisions in laws and rules
7 on cannabis licensees in the cannabis social equity program with
8 respect to: (i) Permissible locations for the siting of licensed
9 cannabis businesses including distance restrictions in RCW
10 69.50.331(8), zoning or other location restrictions in local
11 government ordinances, and local written objections under RCW
12 69.50.331(11); (ii) the mobility of cannabis licenses to or between
13 jurisdictions; (iii) the ability of persons holding an existing
14 cannabis retailer license or title certificate for a cannabis
15 retailer business in a local jurisdiction subject to a ban or
16 moratorium on cannabis retail businesses to apply for a cannabis
17 license under this section; (iv) prioritizing license applications
18 through use of a third-party contractor using a scoring rubric
19 developed by the board; (v) restrictions on the transfer or
20 assumption of a cannabis license issued through the cannabis social
21 equity program other than to individuals or groups of individuals who
22 comply with the requirements for initial licensure as a social equity
23 applicant for a period of at least five years from the date of
24 initial licensure; and (vi) the definition of a "social equity
25 applicant."

26 (7) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
27 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

28 (a) "Disproportionately impacted area" means a census tract or
29 comparable geographic area within Washington state where community
30 members were more likely to be impacted by the war on drugs. These
31 areas must be determined in rule by the board, in consultation with
32 the office of equity, using a standardized statistical equation to
33 identify areas with demographic indicators consistent with
34 populations most impacted by the war on drugs. These areas must be
35 assessed to account for demographic changes in the composition of the
36 population over time. Disproportionately impacted areas must include
37 census tracts or comparable geographic areas in the top 15th
38 percentile in at least two of the following demographic indicators of
39 populations most impacted by the war on drugs:

1 (i) The area has a high rate of people living under the federal
2 poverty level;

3 (ii) The area has a high rate of people who did not graduate from
4 high school;

5 (iii) The area has a high rate of unemployment; or

6 (iv) The area has a high rate of people receiving public
7 assistance.

8 (b) "Social equity applicant" means an applicant who has at least
9 51 percent ownership and control by one or more individuals who meet
10 at least two of the following qualifications:

11 (i) Lived in a disproportionately impacted area in Washington
12 state for a minimum of five years between 1980 and 2010;

13 (ii) Has been arrested or convicted of a cannabis offense or has
14 a family member who has been arrested or convicted of a cannabis
15 offense;

16 (iii) Had a household income in the year prior to submitting an
17 application under this section that was less than the median
18 household income within the state of Washington as calculated by the
19 United States census bureau; or

20 (iv) Is both a socially and economically disadvantaged individual
21 as defined by the office of minority and women's business enterprises
22 under chapter 39.19 RCW.

23 (c) "Social equity goals" means:

24 (i) Increasing the number of cannabis retailer, producer, and
25 processor licenses held by social equity applicants from
26 disproportionately impacted areas; and

27 (ii) Reducing accumulated harm suffered by individuals, families,
28 and local areas subject to severe impacts from the historical
29 application and enforcement of cannabis prohibition laws.

30 ~~((7))~~ (8) Except for the process detailed in subsection (1) of
31 this section, the process for creating new cannabis retail licenses
32 under this chapter remains unaltered.

33 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.330.540 and 2023 c 220 s 1 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

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

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

1 (i) Cannabis license applicants who are social equity applicants
2 as defined in RCW 69.50.335 submitting social equity plans as defined
3 in RCW 69.50.101; and

4 (ii) Cannabis licensees (~~((holding a license issued after April 1,~~
5 ~~2023, and before July 1, 2024,))~~) who meet the social equity applicant
6 criteria under RCW 69.50.335.

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

11 (3) The department must award grants primarily based on the
12 strength of the social equity plans submitted by cannabis license
13 applicants and cannabis licensees (~~((holding a license issued after~~
14 ~~April 1, 2023, and before July 1, 2024))~~) identified in subsection
15 (2)(a) of this section, but may also consider additional criteria if
16 deemed necessary or appropriate by the department. Technical
17 assistance activities eligible for funding include, but are not
18 limited to:

19 (a) Assistance navigating the cannabis licensure process;

20 (b) Cannabis-business specific education and business plan
21 development;

22 (c) Regulatory compliance training;

23 (d) Financial management training and assistance in seeking
24 financing;

25 (e) Strengthening a social equity plan as defined in RCW
26 69.50.101; and

27 (f) Connecting social equity applicants with established industry
28 members and tribal cannabis enterprises and programs for mentoring
29 and other forms of support.

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

34 (a) Have knowledge and experience demonstrating their ability to
35 effectively advise eligible applicants and licensees in navigating
36 the state's licensing and regulatory framework or on producing and
37 processing cannabis;

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

40 (c) Meet department reporting and invoicing requirements.

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

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

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
10 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
11 effect immediately."

ESHB 1551 - S AMD **343**
By Senator Saldaña

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12 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "efficiencies;" strike the
13 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 69.50.331, 69.50.335,
14 and 43.330.540; creating a new section; and declaring an emergency."

EFFECT: Prohibits a city, town, or county from requiring a
cannabis retailer licensed through the Cannabis Social Equity Program
to locate more than 250 feet from the premises of any other licensed
cannabis retailer.

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