



## Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 13, 2025, 10:00 am  
This meeting was held in a hybrid environment

### Meeting Minutes

---

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

*Chair Jim Vollendroff called the regular meeting of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board to order at 10:00 am on Wednesday, August 13, 2025. Member Ollie Garrett and Member Pete Holmes were also present. Two written comments were received and will be attached to the meeting minutes.*

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

**Member Garrett made a motion to approve the November 7 & 14, 2023 Caucus, November 8, 2023 Board Meeting and November 8, 2023 EMT minutes. The December 5 & 19, 2023 Caucus, December 6 & 20, 2023 Board Meeting and December 14, 2023 EMT minutes. The June 17, 2025 Caucus and June 18, 2025 Board Meeting minutes. And the July 9, 2025 EMT and July 15 & 29, 2025 Board Meeting minutes. Member Holmes seconded. The motion was approved.**

#### 3. RULEMAKING TIMELINES – ALL INDUSTRIES Kevin Walder, Policy and Rules Manager

Kevin briefed on current and upcoming timelines, for a total of 15 open rules projects by October, contingent upon Board approval. There are two public hearings on proposed rules on August 14, Acceptable Forms of ID (Alcohol and Cannabis), and Seasonal Hours for Beer and Wine Restaurants (Alcohol).

#### 4. CANNABIS RELATED RULEMAKING

##### **ACTION ITEM 4A – Board Withdrawal of CR 101 for Cannabis License Distance Denise Laflamme, Policy and Rules Coordinator**

Denise presented a request from the Director's Office for Board approval to withdraw the CR 101 to amend WAC 314-55-050(2) regarding how distance is measured between licensed cannabis premises and restricted entities (HANDOUT 4A). Based upon the comments received and considering other rulemaking that is currently underway and pending for this year, the Director's Office recommends withdrawing the CR 101.

**Member Holmes made a motion to approve the withdrawal of the CR 101 for Cannabis License Distance. Member Garrett seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

## **ACTION ITEM 4B – Rules Petition Review and Consideration of Unfair Cannabis Trade Practices**

**Denise Laflamme, Policy and Rules Coordinator**

Denise briefed on a petition request for rulemaking and public discussion to address what are described as “unfair trade practices, perpetual sales and wholesale pricing disparities in the cannabis industry” (HANDOUT 4B). LCB staff are aware that some retailers have used management agreements to create stronger buying power where more than 5 stores engage in the overall purchase. This has raised compliance concerns related to the 5-store ownership limit as required in RCW 69.50.325.

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5403 passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor in 2025 amends RCW 69.50.325 to limit the use of management agreements, thereby addressing the primary concerns raised by the petitioner. The CR 101 to initiate rulemaking to implement ESSB 5403 was filed on July 23, 2025, and the petitioner and others will have opportunities to provide input during the rulemaking process to implement ESSB 5403.

Additional issues raised by the petitioner, including reference to Washington’s Consumer Protection Act and deceptive pricing tactics, may be outside of the scope of LCB regulatory oversight.

The Director’s Office recommends the Board deny the petition to consider amending chapter 314-55 WAC related to unfair trade practices perpetual sales and wholesale pricing disparities in the cannabis industry.

**Member Garrett made a motion to deny the petition. Member Holmes seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

## **8. ADJOURN**

Chair Vollendroff adjourned the meeting at 10:29 am.

Minutes approved this 26th day of August 2025



\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Vollendroff  
Board Chair



\_\_\_\_\_  
Ollie Garrett  
Board Member



\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Holmes  
Board Member

Minutes Prepared by: Deborah Soper, Administrative Assistant to the Board

|  |
|--|
| <b>LCB Mission</b> - Promote public safety, public health, and trust through fair administration, education, and enforcement of liquor, cannabis, tobacco, and vapor laws. |
|--|

**Two written comments were received.**

The following comment is requested to be reviewed at the WSLCB Board Meeting on 8/13/2025, ACTION ITEM B, Rules Petition Review and Consideration of Unfair Cannabis Trade Practices.

I have been the sole owner of a retail store in Walla Walla since 2015, for nearly 10 years.

In that time, the Cannabis Industry has matured in many ways but is still lacking the typical regulatory enforcement faced by other industries when it comes to fair business practices. As a result, unfair business practices have become terribly rampant throughout the industry. In particular, it has become common for large retail stores and retail chains to engage in significant and widespread coercion within the supply chain. Nearly every Cannabis Retail Store in Washington State is either the victim, or engaging in, coercion within the supply chain. Nearly all large retail stores and retail chains make demands on processors that they do NOT sell their products to the store's competition (other nearby retail stores) or that they sell their products for a higher price to their competition. The large retail stores or retail chains will threaten to remove a processor's products from their store (or entire retail chain) if the processor does not give in to the demands. This leaves processors faced with having to make a choice of who to sell to and typically choose the chains or larger stores.

This practice is not allowed in other industries and it should not be allowed in our industry.

I have had my staff make a few complaints about this through the years, but for whatever reason, this unfair business practice remains the norm throughout the State of Washington.

Thank you!

Chris Crew

Walla Walla Weedery

Dear Director Lukela, Board Member Holmes, and All,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed amendments to WAC 314-55-050(2), which would redefine the method of measuring the 1,000-foot buffer between licensed cannabis retailers and restricted entities. The current approach—measuring the shortest straight-line distance from property line to property line—is overly restrictive and impedes sustainable industry growth, particularly in urban and commercial settings.

For example, in strip malls or shopping centers, the actual operational site of a cannabis retailer may be several hundred feet from a restricted entity, far exceeding the required buffer. However, parcel-line measurements can artificially reduce this distance to below 100 feet, disqualifying viable locations despite property owner support. This challenge has repeatedly surfaced in Vancouver, Washington, and similar urban areas, where dense zoning exacerbates the issue and limits opportunities for compliant businesses.

While some retailers may oppose this change due to potential increased competition, the existing method creates unnecessary barriers that contradict the intent of ensuring meaningful separation from restricted entities. Shifting to a more precise measurement, such as from the actual premises or leased boundaries, would align with practical realities and promote equitable access without compromising public safety.

These revisions are especially critical for Social Equity licensees, who face disproportionate hurdles in securing suitable sites amid market oversupply and zoning constraints but should be applied to all licensees. Washington's Social Equity Program, which will issue up to 52 new retail licenses, aims to address historical harms from cannabis prohibition, but restrictive measurements will severely hinder this goal. Without updates, where will these licensees find locations, and how will existing operators adapt to demographic shifts or expand?

Adopting the proposed changes would benefit the entire state industry by fostering long-term viability and reducing densification in overserved areas. In Vancouver, zoning has created a densification which is negatively impactful to our businesses and is not serving the community “at large”. Recent legislative efforts, such as SB 5758, which proposes reducing buffers to 250 feet for Social Equity holders, underscore the need for flexibility to support equitable growth, but the change needs to be available for all licensees.

Furthermore, it is time to revisit and reduce the list of restricted entities. Washington's track record demonstrates effective prevention of minor access, with declining youth usage rates despite legalization. With cannabis billboards are prevalent in many cities, a 100-foot buffer from non-school entities is no longer a reasonable or evidence-based defense. I propose updating the list to include only primary and secondary schools, maintaining a 1,000-foot buffer, while allowing local jurisdictions to eliminate other entities altogether. This would enhance community access without increasing risks, aligning with broader trends toward less restrictive zoning to promote industry equity and public health.

This approach would also support federal progress, such as H.R. 966 (Veterans Cannabis Use for Safe Healing Act) and recent Senate approvals allowing VA doctors to recommend medical marijuana to veterans in legal states, emphasizing the need for accessible cannabis retail throughout communities rather than concentration in limited zones.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge the Board to approve these modifications to ensure a thriving, inclusive cannabis industry in Washington.

Sincerely,

James Mullen

Co-Owner, The Herbery

Vancouver, WA