



Bill Description: Creating a certificate of compliance for cannabis business premises that meet the statutory qualifications at the time of application.

Bill Number: SSB 6206

Bill Sponsor: Senator Ann Rivers

Effective Date: June 11, 2020

Amends: RCW 69.50.331

Background

Cannabis businesses may not be licensed to operate within 1,000 feet of the perimeter of certain types of facilities, including schools, child care centers, public parks, libraries, game arcades and a variety of other listed entities. In prior years there have been cases when a cannabis licensee applies to open a store at a specific location that appears to be in compliance with the 1,000 foot distance requirements, only to later see an anti-cannabis advocate announce the opening of an arcade within 1,000 feet of the proposed cannabis business location. This scenario remains possible because the location of proposed future cannabis store locations must be publicly announced to local governments and notices posted for neighbors to become aware of. While new cannabis licenses are not currently available, any time a current cannabis business wants to move to a new location, the potential for this problem to arise is present. This bill addresses concerns from cannabis entrepreneurs who put in an application for a location that complies with these distance requirements but still could be prevented from operating due to the presence of a pop-up child care or arcade within the restricted zone before being issued the license or change of location.

Bill Summary

- Requires the LCB to issue a certificate of compliance for cannabis business locations that meet the statutory distance requirements at the time the applicant submits the application to the LCB.
- Provides that the certificate of compliance authorizes the licensee to operate the business at the locations specified in the application notwithstanding a later occurring and otherwise disqualifying factor.
- Some ambiguity in the language of the bill as enacted will be clarified by the LCB in rule making, so it is clear the agency doesn't have to issue the certificate *at the time of application* and to clarify that the certificate of compliance by itself doesn't allow the applicant to operate the business (since other requirements also must be met before the business can begin to operate).

Contact Information:

If you have questions, please contact [Chris Thompson, Director of Legislative Relations](#).