



Joint Commission to Oversee the Transition of the Commonwealth into a Cannabis Retail Market

August 17, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

General Assembly Building, Senate Room 306-B

<https://studies.viriniageneralassembly.gov/studies/774>

The Joint Commission to Oversee the Transition of the Commonwealth into a Cannabis Retail Market (the Joint Commission) met in Richmond with Senator Lashrecse D. Aird, chair, presiding.¹ The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks followed by presentations and discussion. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [*Joint Commission's meetings webpage*](#).

Presentation: Overview of Adopted Cannabis Retail Marketplace Law and 2026 Interim Work Plan

Stephen Kindermann, Lead Senior Legislative Counsel, Division of Legislative Services
Troy Hatcher, Legislative Counsel, Division of Legislative Services

Mr. Kindermann and Mr. Hatcher provided an overview of cannabis law in the Commonwealth, beginning by providing a legislative history of cannabis from 2020 to the present day. They also provided an overview of the provisions for the cannabis retail marketplace that were included in HB 30 (Torian, 2026 Special Session I), which include (i) updates to the powers and duties of the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority (the CCA), (ii) licensure procedures and relevant deadlines, (iii) taxation and local authority, and (iv) directives for the Joint Commission and other agencies. Mr. Kindermann and Mr. Hatcher also presented a tentative work plan for the Joint Commission for the remainder of the 2026 interim, including new and existing reporting deadlines.

Presentation: Overview of the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority

Shawn Casey, Chief Government and External Affairs Officer, CCA

Ms. Casey offered a history of the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority and an overview of its organizational structure and highlighted how the agency is expanding, including by hiring new full-time employees, to prepare for the launch of the cannabis retail marketplace and meet the deadlines established by HB 30. She explained how the CCA has transitioned to oversee hemp enforcement and has established regional offices. She also presented on the medical marijuana marketplace and noted federal changes in both hemp and marijuana laws that the agency is following.

Ms. Casey highlighted how important external engagement is to the agency when creating regulations, noting ways to contact the CCA for input and describing the process for how regulations are published. She also acknowledged that (a) compliance and enforcement is key for public safety and (b) the agency is working toward that goal and aligning enforcement with other

¹ **Members Present:** Senator Lashrecse D. Aird (chair), Delegate Paul E. Krizek (vice-chair), Senator Emily M. Jordan, Senator Saddam Azlan Salim, Senator Schuyler T. VanValkenburg, Delegate Rae Cousins, Delegate Hyland F. "Buddy" Fowler, Jr., Delegate James W. Morefield, Delegate Marcia S. "Cia" Price (virtual)
Members Absent: Delegate Katrina Callsen

regulatory agencies. Finally, Ms. Casey discussed the CCA's goals for public education campaigns related to cannabis, including the Safe Driving Campaign.

Public Comment

Members of the public were given a chance to speak regarding the information presented at the meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Joint Commission was not set.

For more information, see the [*Joint Commission's website*](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

Stephen Kindermann, Lead Senior Legislative Counsel, DLS
skindermann@dls.virginia.gov
804-698-1880

Troy Hatcher, Legislative Counsel, DLS
thatcher@dls.virginia.gov
804-698-1829

