

**SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SONOMA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AMENDING PROVISIONS IN CHAPTER 14 OF THE SONOMA COUNTY CODE CONCERNING CANNABIS DISPENSARIES AND REPEALING OBSOLETE PROVISIONS IN CHAPTER 24 CONCERNING SEPTIC BONDS**

---

On April 7, 2026, the Board of Supervisors adopted an Ordinance to amend provisions in Chapter 14 of the Sonoma County Code concerning cannabis dispensaries and repealing obsolete provisions in Chapter 24 concerning septic bonds

The proposed ordinance amends Chapters 14 and 24 the Sonoma County Code, as summarized below:

**County Code, Chapter 14 – Cannabis Dispensary Ordinance**

Minor technical clarifications are proposed in various provisions of Chapter 14, but the primary effect of the amendments will be on the cannabis dispensary ordinance.

Current Provision: Chapter 14 allows retail cannabis sales but prohibits on-site consumption at dispensaries anywhere in the County.

Proposed Amendment: Authorize on-site consumption at licensed dispensaries throughout Sonoma County through issuance of a DHS Cannabis Lounge Health Permit and approval from the appropriate land use agency. On-site consumption lounges will be required to comply with Health Officer requirements. Requirements include:

- Compliance with ventilation, filtration, and air-quality standards modeled on DCC requirements and jurisdictions such as San Francisco and West Hollywood;
- Clear physical separation between retail and consumption areas;
- Employee protections from secondhand smoke exposure consistent with AB 1775 standards;
- Prohibition of alcohol or tobacco sales or consumption on premises;
- Restricted access to adults age 21+ and required age verification procedures;
- Odor control, signage, and operational standards to minimize off-site impacts.

**Amendments to Chapter 14 to address restrictions in Chapter 32**

Current Provision: The County’s Smoking Ordinance prohibits smoking in enclosed public spaces and places of employment, which includes cannabis consumption.

Proposed Amendment: Make Chapter 32 inapplicable to consumption lounges authorized under Chapter 14 of the County Code.

These amendments maintain strong protections for workers and the general public but allows for the consumption lounges permitted by AB 1775.

**Amendments to Chapter 24 (Bond Requirements)**

DHS staff also propose a cleanup amendment to Chapter 24 that is unrelated to cannabis.

Environmental Health enforces state law with respect to septic hauling and tank cleaning, but independent of state law the County Code has required septic haulers to post a bond as part of their

permit application. Staff's proposed ordinance amendment eliminates this requirement as it is less effective than other enforcement measures, including penalties.

**Environmental Determination.** Adoption of this Ordinance is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that adoption of this ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment. Bond requirements have not been enforced in the recent past. In addition, the Ordinance is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15305 (minor alterations in land use limitations) in that no changes to density or land use are being permitted, and all authorized operations will be in already developed retail establishments.

If adopted, the proposed ordinance would become effective on May 7, 2026. A certified copy of the full text of the proposed ordinance is posted and available for review in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 575 Administration Drive, Room 100A, Santa Rosa, California, during regular business hours, and is also available at the Board of Supervisors' website with the materials for the March 26, 2026 meeting agenda at <https://sonoma-county.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Christina Rivera, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors,  
County of Sonoma

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk