

Chapter 4, Article X, Cannabis License is added as follows:

Chapter 4. Article X – Cannabis Licenses

Sec. 4-300. – Title

This article is known as the cannabis license ordinance.

Sec. 4-301. – Purpose

The purpose of this article is to establish a cannabis license program for cannabis uses in unincorporated Sonoma County to ensure the uses operate in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, to protect the regulated industry from competing illicit market operations, and to maintain the public health, safety, and welfare of each community and county as a whole.

Sec. 4-302. – Administration

- A. Administrative authority. This section will be administered under the direction of the board of supervisors, by and through the County Administrator’s Office (“department”) subject to the standards and criteria contained in this section. The department is authorized to develop application forms and procedures and require all information necessary to verify compliance with this article.**
- B. Enforcement. The director of Permit Sonoma, in conjunction with the department, is the enforcing officer for purposes of enforcing this article under Chapter 1.**
- C. Review. Except as provided in Section 4-304, all decisions made by the department under this article are final, subject only to judicial review.**
- D. Other Laws and Permits. Nothing in this section eliminates the need for a licensee to comply with local, state, or federal law, or to obtain other permits, approvals, or authorizations required by this code or state or federal agencies.**

Sec. 4-303 – License requirements.

- A. License Required. A cannabis use regulated under Chapter 26 must be licensed under this article. Personal cultivation exempt from the land use permit requirement under Chapter 26 is also exempt from this cannabis license requirement.**
- B. Compliance Generally.**
 - a. State cannabis license. A licensee must hold an active state license as required by the California Department of Cannabis Control.**
 - b. County zoning authorization. A cannabis use licensed under this article must be operated and maintained in compliance with Chapter 26, including obtaining a zoning permit or use permit as required.**
 - c. Ongoing violations. To obtain, renew, or maintain a license, the site cannot have any unresolved violations related to the cannabis operation issued by Sonoma County.**
- C. Property Owner Authorization. Authorization from the property owner or landlord must be provided.**
- D. Consent to Inspections. A licensee must consent to inspections that may be conducted at any time during normal business hours, with or without prior notice.**
- E. Tax Compliance. A licensee must comply with Sonoma County Cannabis Business Tax Ordinance, Sonoma County Code Chapter 35.**

- F. Term and renewal. A license expires one year from the date of issuance and must be renewed annually.

Sec. 4-304 – License suspension or revocation.

- A. Suspension or Revocation. The department may suspend or revoke a license in the event of 1 or more of the following:
1. License issuance was based on inaccurate or incomplete information.
 2. Licensee has operated in non-conformance with this article or license.
 3. Licensee has failed to pay permitting or licensing fees or civil penalties associated with the cannabis use.
- B. Notice of Suspension or Revocation. To suspend or revoke a license, the department must issue a written notice to the licensee. The notice must include:
1. The address of the cannabis operation;
 2. License number;
 3. License holder; and
 4. Reason for suspension or revocation.
- C. Service of Notice. A notice of suspension or revocation must be sent via email and certified mail to the licensee address on file with the local authority.
- D. Appeals.
1. Right of Appeal. A notice of suspension or revocation may be appealed by the licensee to department.
 2. Form and Timing. An appeal must be made in writing and submitted to the department within 10 calendar days from the date of the notice.
 3. Failure to Appeal. Failure to file a timely appeal makes the suspension or revocation final and constitutes a waiver of the right to an appeal hearing and adjudication of the suspension or revocation.
 4. Appeal Hearing. An appeal hearing must be noticed, conducted, and decided in accordance with the rules and timelines established by Section 1-7.3 of the Sonoma County Code and any administrative procedures established by the department.
 5. Consolidation. The department may consolidate an appeal hearing for a notice of suspension or revocation with an appeal hearing for a related administrative enforcement action under Chapter 1, in which case the appeal provisions of the relevant enforcement section apply.
- E. Effect of Suspension or Revocation.
1. License Suspension. If a license is suspended, the corresponding cannabis operation cannot operate until the suspension expires. If the license expires during the suspension a license application will not be accepted for the cannabis operation until the suspension expires. An application for a new licensee will be accepted.
 2. License Revocation. If a license is revoked, a new license cannot be issued for the same land use within the same premises for 1 year from the date of revocation. "Premises" has the same meaning as the term "cannabis premises" as defined in Chapter 26.

Sec. 4-305 – Fees.

The board of supervisors will establish a schedule of fees for services provided under this section. Services subject to fees may include, but are not limited to, licensing, license renewal, monitoring, annual inspections, and enforcement. Fees may be changed from time to time by a resolution of the board of supervisors.