

ORDINANCE NO. ()

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SONOMA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ADDING ARTICLE X TO CHAPTER 4 OF THE SONOMA COUNTY CODE ESTABLISHING A CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSE

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California, ordains as follows:

Section I. Purpose and Authority. The propose of this Ordinance is to establish a business license requirement for cannabis business throughout the unincorporated County (excluding the Coastal Zone) that enables the County track active cannabis businesses to help ensure they operate in a manner that maintains the public health, safety, and welfare of each community and the county as a whole. This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to California Business and Professions Code § 16100 and California Government Code § 25131.

Section II. Findings.

- A. While a land use ordinance and permit requirements are appropriate for determining suitable locations for cannabis operations, an annual business license is necessary and desirable to track compliance of active cannabis businesses on an ongoing basis, particularly where no land use permit is required.
- B. The annual cannabis license will aid in tracking the locations and responsible parties of active cannabis businesses, enabling annual inspections, ensuring compliance with the County's cannabis business tax ordinance, and verifying cannabis businesses possess the appropriate state licensing, in addition to educating on and verifying compliance with other local requirements.
- C. Prior to adoption of the Cannabis Program Update, County Code required cannabis operators to notify the County in event of an operator change and this requirement was further imposed as permit terms for ministerial permits and conditions of approval for use permits. When such permits expire or are terminated and the use continues by-right without planning approval, or when an existing permit is amended or extended under the new land use ordinance, these notification requirements will no longer be imposed and the cannabis license will become necessary to track operations and compliance.

Section III. Cannabis Business License Ordinance. Article X is added to Chapter 4 of the Sonoma County Code as set forth in Exhibit 4-A, attached and incorporated by reference.

Section IV. Existing Cannabis Operations.

- A. An existing cannabis operation must obtain a cannabis business license upon expiration, renewal, major modification, or termination of its existing cannabis

land use permit. A major modification includes one that requires a new land use permit application under Chapter 26 and any modification that removes term limits, operator notification, compliance with the business tax ordinance, or the requirements for an active state license.

- B. An existing cannabis operation is a cannabis operation with a valid approved land use permit issued by the County as of the effective date of this Ordinance.
- C. All other cannabis operations, including those with pending land use applications on the effective date of this Ordinance, must obtain a cannabis business license prior to operation.

Section V. Environmental Determination. This Ordinance was environmentally reviewed as part of the Comprehensive Cannabis Program Update Environmental Impact Report. By separate Resolution (No. 25-), incorporated herein by reference, the Board of Supervisors certified that the Final Environmental Impact Report prepared for the Comprehensive Cannabis Program Update project: (a) reflects the Board's independent judgment and analysis, (b) was presented to and reviewed and considered by the Board of Supervisors, and (c) was completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.) (CEQA), the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., Title 14, §15000 et seq.) and the County's local CEQA Guidelines. By the same resolution, the Board of Supervisors further adopted findings of fact and a statement of overriding considerations for the project. The mitigation measures identified in the Environmental Impact Report were incorporated into the zoning ordinance and the mitigation monitoring and reporting program for the project were adopted by Ordinance No. 25_, incorporated herein by reference.

Section VI. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and every section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

Section VII. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be and the same is hereby declared to be in full force and effect on July 1, 2026, and shall be published once before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after said passage, with the names of the Supervisors voting for or against the same, in *The Press Democrat*, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Sonoma, State of California.

In regular session of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, introduced on the 28 day, of October, 2025, and finally passed and adopted this X day of X, 2025, on regular roll call of the members of said Board by the following vote:

SUPERVISORS:

Hermosillo: Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared the above and foregoing Ordinance duly adopted and

SO ORDERED.

Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of Sonoma

ATTEST:

M. Christina Rivera,
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors