

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON**

NOTICE is hereby given that the following Ordinance was introduced and passed upon first reading at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, Hunterdon County, New Jersey on June 21, 2021 and that said Ordinance will be taken up for further consideration for final passage at a public hearing during the regular meeting of the Township Committee to be held on July 6, 2021 at 7:45 p.m. or as soon thereafter as said matter can be reached, at which time and place all persons who may be interested therein will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning same. The summary of the terms of such Ordinance follows: Title: ***AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON HUNTERDON COUNTY AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS PROHIBITING ALL CLASSES OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP***, and is numbered ORDINANCE #19-2021. Purpose: ***The purpose of the ordinance is to create a new Chapter entitled "Cannabis Businesses" and to prohibit all classes of cannabis businesses under the general police powers afforded to the Township under N.J.S.A. 40:48-1, et seq., in order to protect the general health, safety and welfare of the public.*** Due to the size of the document, copies of said ordinance are available from the Municipal Clerk upon request. Please email your request to Karin Parker, Municipal Clerk at parker@readingtontwpnj.org or call the office of the Clerk at (908) 534-4051, ext. 223. (A full copy of the ordinance is also available on the Township's website).

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
HUNTERDON COUNTY AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS
PROHIBITING ALL CLASSES OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE
TOWNSHIP**

ORDINANCE #19-2021

WHEREAS, in 2020 New Jersey voters approved Public Question No. 1, which amended the New Jersey Constitution to allow for the legalization of a controlled form of marijuana called “cannabis” for adults at least twenty-one years of age; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2021, Governor Murphy signed into law *P.L. 2021, c. 16*, known as the “New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act” (the “Act”), which legalizes the recreational use of marijuana by adults twenty-one years of age or older, and establishes a comprehensive regulatory and licensing scheme for commercial recreational (adult use) cannabis operations, use and possession; and

WHEREAS, the Act establishes six marketplace classes of licensed businesses, including:

- Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator license, for facilities involved in growing and cultivating cannabis;
- Class 2 Cannabis Manufacturer license, for facilities involved in the manufacturing, preparation, and packaging of cannabis items;
- Class 3 Cannabis Wholesaler license, for facilities involved in obtaining and selling cannabis items for later resale by other licensees;
- Class 4 Cannabis Distributer license, for businesses involved in transporting cannabis plants in bulk from one licensed cultivator to another licensed cultivator, or cannabis items in bulk from any type of licensed cannabis business to another;
- Class 5 Cannabis Retailer license, for locations at which cannabis items and related supplies are sold to consumers; and
- Class 6 Cannabis Delivery license, for businesses providing courier services for consumer purchases that are fulfilled by a licensed cannabis retailer in order to make deliveries of the purchased items to a consumer, and which service would include the ability of a consumer to make a purchase directly through the cannabis delivery service which would be presented by the delivery service for fulfillment by a retailer and then delivered to a consumer.

WHEREAS, section 31a of the Act authorizes municipalities by ordinance to adopt

regulations governing the number of cannabis establishments (defined in section 3 of the Act as “a cannabis cultivator, a cannabis manufacturer, a cannabis wholesaler, or a cannabis retailer”), cannabis distributors or cannabis delivery services allowed to operate within their boundaries, as well as the location manner and times operation of such establishments, distributors or delivery services, and establishing civil penalties for the violation of any such regulations; and

WHEREAS, section 31b of the Act authorizes municipalities by ordinance to prohibit the operation of any one or more classes of cannabis establishments, distributors, or delivery services anywhere in the municipality; and

WHEREAS, section 31b of the Act also stipulates, however, that any municipal regulation or prohibition must be adopted within 180 days of the effective date of the Act (*i.e.*, by August 21, 2021); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 31b of the Act, the failure to do so shall mean that for a period of five years thereafter, the growing, cultivating, manufacturing, selling and reselling of cannabis and cannabis items shall be permitted uses in all industrial zones, and the retail selling of cannabis items to consumers shall be a conditional use in all commercial and retail zones; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the initial and any subsequent five-year period following a failure to enact local regulations or prohibitions, the municipality shall again have 180 days to adopt an ordinance regulating or prohibiting cannabis businesses, but any such ordinance would be prospective only and would not apply to any cannabis business already operating within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of Readington Township has determined that, due to present uncertainties regarding the potential future impacts that allowing one or more classes of cannabis business might have on New Jersey municipalities in general, and on Readington Township in particular, it is at this time necessary and appropriate, and in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the Township’s residents and members of the public who visit, travel, or conduct business in the Township, to amend the Code of the Township of Readington, to include a new Chapter entitled "Cannabis Businesses" prohibiting all manner of marijuana-related businesses within the Township; and

WHEREAS, officials from two prominent non-profit organizations that have been established for the purpose of advising New Jersey municipalities on legal matters such as have been presented by the Act (those organizations being the New Jersey State League of Municipalities and the New Jersey Institute of Local Government Attorneys) have strongly urged that, due to the complexity and novelty of the Act; the many areas of municipal law that are or may be implicated in decisions as to whether or to what extent cannabis or medical cannabis should be permitted for land use purposes or otherwise regulated in any particular municipality; and the relatively short duration in which the Act would allow such decisions to be made before imposing an automatic authorization of such uses in specified zoning districts subject to unspecified conditions, the most prudent course of action for all municipalities, whether or not generally in favor of cannabis or medical cannabis land development and uses, would be to prohibit all such uses within the Act’s 180-day period in order to ensure sufficient time to

Carefully review all aspects of the Act and its impacts;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, in the County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. Preamble incorporated. The preamble to this ordinance is hereby incorporated as if fully restated herein.

SECTION 2. New Chapter. The Code of the Township of Readington is hereby amended to provide a new chapter entitled "**Cannabis businesses**" to provide as follows:

a. Prohibition of Cannabis Businesses. Pursuant to section 31b of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act (*P.L.* 2021, *c.* 16)(the "Act") and under the general police powers of the Township provided under N.J.S.A. 40:48-1 in order to protect the general health, safety and welfare of the public, all cannabis establishments, cannabis distributors or cannabis delivery services as said terms are defined in section 3 of the Act and within this Chapter are hereby prohibited from operating anywhere in the Township of Readington, except for the delivery of cannabis items and related supplies within the Township by a delivery service located outside of the Township.

b. Definitions. For the purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

CANNABIS CULTIVATOR

Any person or entity holding a Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator license issued by the State of New Jersey that grows, cultivates, or produces cannabis in the State of New Jersey, and sells, and may transport, this cannabis to other cannabis cultivators, or usable cannabis to cannabis manufacturers, cannabis wholesalers, or cannabis retailers, but not to consumers.

CANNABIS DELIVERY

The transportation of cannabis items and related supplies to a consumer. "Cannabis delivery" also includes the use by a licensed cannabis retailer of any third party technology platform to receive, process, and fulfill orders by consumers, which third party shall not be required to be a licensed cannabis establishment, distributor, or delivery service, provided that any physical acts in connection with fulfilling the order and delivery shall be accomplished by a certified cannabis handler performing work for or on behalf of the licensed cannabis retailer, which includes a certified cannabis handler employed or otherwise working on behalf of a cannabis delivery service making off-premises deliveries of consumer purchases fulfilled by that cannabis retailer.

CANNABIS DELIVERY SERVICE

Any person or entity holding a Class 6 Cannabis Delivery license issued by the State of New Jersey that provides courier services for consumer purchases of cannabis items and related supplies fulfilled by a cannabis

retailer in order to make deliveries of the cannabis items and related supplies to that consumer, and which services include the ability of a consumer to purchase the cannabis items directly through the cannabis delivery service, which after presenting the purchase order to the cannabis retailer for fulfillment, is delivered to that consumer.

CANNABIS DISTRIBUTOR

Any person or entity holding a Class 4 Cannabis Distributor license issued by the State of New Jersey that transports cannabis in bulk intrastate from one licensed cannabis cultivator to another licensed cannabis cultivator, or transports 40 cannabis items in bulk intrastate from any one class of licensed cannabis establishment to another class of licensed cannabis establishment, and may engage in the temporary storage of cannabis or cannabis items as necessary to carry out transportation activities.

CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENT

A cannabis cultivator, a cannabis manufacturer, a cannabis wholesaler, or a cannabis retailer.

CANNABIS MANUFACTURER

Any person or entity holding a Class 2 Cannabis Manufacturer license issued by the State of New Jersey, that processes cannabis items in this State by purchasing or otherwise obtaining usable cannabis, manufacturing, preparing, and packaging cannabis items, and selling, and optionally transporting, these items to other cannabis manufacturers, cannabis wholesalers, or cannabis retailers, but not to consumers.

CANNABIS RETAILER

Any person or entity holding a Class 5 Cannabis license issued by the State of New Jersey that purchases or otherwise obtains usable cannabis from cannabis cultivators and cannabis items from cannabis manufacturers or cannabis wholesalers, and sells these to consumers from a retail store, and may use a cannabis delivery service or a certified cannabis handler for the off-premises delivery of cannabis items and related supplies to consumers. A cannabis retailer shall also accept consumer purchases to be fulfilled from its retail store that are presented by a cannabis delivery service which will be delivered by the cannabis delivery service to that consumer.

CANNABIS WHOLESALER

Any person or entity holding a Class 3 Cannabis Wholesaler license issued by the State of New Jersey that purchases or otherwise obtains, stores, sells or otherwise transfers, and may transport, cannabis items for the purpose of resale or other transfer to either another cannabis wholesaler or to a cannabis retailer, but not to consumers.

c. Enforcement/Violations.

This ordinance may be enforced by the Police Department, or a Township official who may be authorized by the Township. Any person who violates the provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of \$1,000, imprisonment for a term not exceeding 90 days and/or a period of community service not exceeding 90 days. Each day a violation exists shall be considered a separate violation.

SECTION 3. Repealer. All ordinances and resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with this ordinance are repealed.

SECTION 4. Severability. If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged by the courts to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudged and the remainder of this ordinance shall be valid and enforceable.

SECTION 5. Renumbering. The sections, subsections and provisions of this ordinance may be renumbered as necessary or practical for codification purposes.

SECTION 6. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption and final publication according to law.