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AB-993 Cannabis Task Force. (2023-2024)

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Assembly Bill No. 993

CHAPTER 822

An act to amend Section 26203 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to cannabis.

[Approved by Governor October 13, 2023. Filed with Secretary of State October 13, 2023.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 993, Blanca Rubio. Cannabis Task Force.

The Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act of 2016 (AUMA), an initiative measure, authorizes a person who obtains a state license under AUMA to engage in commercial adult-use cannabis activity pursuant to that license and applicable local ordinances. The Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA), among other things, consolidates the licensure and regulation of commercial medicinal and adult-use cannabis activities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Cannabis Control. Existing law authorizes local jurisdictions to enforce the provisions of MAUCRSA and to regulate cannabis businesses, as specified. Existing law, until January 1, 2025, establishes a task force on state and local regulation of commercial cannabis activity to promote communication between state and local entities engaged in the regulation of commercial cannabis activity and facilitate cooperation to enforce applicable state and local laws, consisting of specified members from state agencies and all local jurisdictions regulating commercial cannabis activity that opt to participate.

Existing law, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), establishes the Civil Rights Department within the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency to enforce civil rights laws with respect to housing and employment and to protect and safeguard the right of all persons to obtain and hold employment without discrimination based on specified characteristics or status. Existing law establishes the Department of Industrial Relations within the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners of California and improve their working conditions, among other functions.

This bill would expand the task force on regulation of commercial cannabis activity to include representatives from the Civil Rights Department and the Department of Industrial Relations.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 26203 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

26203. (a) There is hereby established a task force on state and local regulation of commercial cannabis activity. The purpose of the task force is to promote communication between state and local entities engaged in the regulation of commercial cannabis activity and facilitate cooperation to enforce applicable state and local laws.

(b) The task force shall be composed of representatives from all of the following:

(1) The Department of Cannabis Control.

(2) The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration.

(3) The Department of Fish and Wildlife.

(4) The State Water Resources Control Board.

(5) The Department of the California Highway Patrol.

(6) The Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

(7) The Department of Justice.

(8) The Civil Rights Department.

(9) The Department of Industrial Relations.

(10) All local jurisdictions regulating commercial cannabis activity that opt to participate in the task force, which may send representatives from one or more of the following:

(A) The contact person designated pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 26055.

(B) A county sheriff's office or municipal police department.

(C) A district attorney's office or city attorney's office.

(c) Beginning July 1, 2023, the task force shall meet twice each fiscal year, through teleconference or similar means to facilitate remote participation, for discussions to be convened and led by the Department of Cannabis Control. Discussion topics may include, but need not be limited to, enforcement against the illicit market, social equity programs, state licensing requirements, and labor and workforce compliance.

(d) The task force shall not be subject to the requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code) or the Ralph M. Brown Act (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 54950) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code).

(e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2025, and as of that date is repealed.