

MARIJUANA-RELATED PROVISIONS

Governor: Legalize recreational marijuana in certain amounts for personal use. Modify the Uniform Controlled Substances Act provisions and other criminal-justice related provisions to reflect marijuana, including tetrahydrocannabinols (THC), legalization. Further, create a Uniform Controlled Substances Act subchapter for the regulation of marijuana, including criminal and civil provisions related to permittee allowances and prohibitions, underage persons, and special dispositions for marijuana-related crimes.

Provide that marijuana sales would be regulated and taxed. Specify that excise taxes would be imposed on marijuana sales, depending on the type of sale (wholesale versus retail sale), in addition to a sales tax. Create a medical marijuana registry program administered by the Department of Revenue (DOR), which would require DOR to process applications and issue identification cards allowing tax-exempt purchases. Establish a program at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to regulate the production, processing, and laboratory testing of marijuana and THC. Under the bill, the sale and distribution of taxable marijuana would be regulated by the state under DOR and DATCP. Further, establish a community reinvestment fund consisting of all moneys generated by marijuana excise taxes, interest earnings, and penalties, and authorize the Department of Health Services (DHS) to distribute these revenues to counties to support mental health and substance use disorder service.

The table below presents the fiscal impact of all expenditures and revenues associated with the proposed marijuana-related provisions. These (and other) provisions related to the Governor's recommendation to legalize marijuana are described in greater detail in the following sections.

	<u>Amount</u>		<u>2023-25</u>	<u>Fund Source</u>
	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>Biennium</u>	
Revenues				
Permit Fees (DOR)	\$675,000	\$735,000	\$1,410,000	GPR-Rev
Enhanced Sales Taxes	-	10,200,000	10,200,000	GPR-Tax
Permit Fees (DATCP)	208,900	258,600	467,500	PR-Rev
Wholesale Excise Tax	-	21,900,000	21,900,000	SEG-Rev
Retail Excise Tax	-	<u>22,500,000</u>	<u>22,500,000</u>	SEG-Rev
Total Revenues	<u>\$883,900</u>	<u>\$55,593,600</u>	<u>\$56,477,500</u>	
Expenditures				
Administration (DOR)	\$3,284,300	\$2,073,600	\$5,357,900	GPR
Tribal Refunds	-	2,200,000	2,200,000	GPR
Enforcement (Public Defender)	-117,700	-235,400	-353,100	GPR
Regulation (DATCP)	208,900	258,600	467,500	PR
Payments to Counties (DHS)	-	<u>44,400,000</u>	<u>44,400,000</u>	SEG
Total Expenditures	<u>\$3,375,500</u>	<u>\$48,696,800</u>	<u>\$52,072,300</u>	
Net Effect to General Fund	-\$2,491,600	\$6,896,800	\$4,405,200	

1. MODIFICATION OF UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT PROVISIONS AND OTHER CRIMINAL JUSTICE-RELATED PROVISIONS AND DEFINITIONS

Governor: Modify and repeal certain statutes related to marijuana and THC, as follows:

a. Current Law Changes. Repeal Uniform Controlled Substances Act statutes related to: (1) requiring Controlled Substances Board action if cannabidiol or nabiximols is rescheduled; (2) classifying THC as a controlled hallucinogenic substance; (3) lawful possession of a cannabidiol product with a certification for medical use; (4) issuing cannabidiol products and certifications for individuals to possess cannabidiol products for medical use; (5) manufacture, distribution, or delivery of THC; (6) possession with intent to manufacture, distribute, or deliver THC; (7) possession of THC; and (8) penalties relating to THC in certain cases. In addition, repeal regulation of hemp statutes related to access to cannabidiol products.

Modify statutory provisions to: (1) remove THC from the list of substances included in determining weight of substance provisions; (2) remove references to possession with intent to manufacture, distribute, or deliver THC from conspiracy provisions; (3) remove "or any form of THC" language from offenses involving intent to deliver or distribute a controlled substance on or near certain places provisions; (4) remove references to manufacture, distribution, or delivery of THC from crimes involving certain controlled substances provisions; and (5) renumber and rename "controlled substances therapeutic research" provisions to "marijuana therapeutic research." In addition, modify the intoxicated and reckless flying penalty provisions to provide that in individual must submit to an examination for use of THC and to specify that the required airman safety plan may include treatment for the person's misuse, abuse, or dependence on THC.

Modify statutory language to remove "marijuana" from the list of substances in the penalties statutes for possession of: (1) cocaine and cocaine base; (2) certain hallucinogenic and stimulant drugs; and (3) synthetic cannabinoids. In addition, modify statutory language to remove "marijuana" from: (1) conditional discharge for possession or attempted possession statutes; and (2) second or subsequent offense statutes (also remove references to possession of THC from these statutes).

Modify statutory language on the use or nonuse of lawful products to specify that conflicts with any federal or state statute, rule, or regulation do not apply with respect to violations concerning marijuana or THC under 21 U.S. Code Sections 841 to 865 (the Food and Drugs Title, Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Chapter).

b. Modification of County Marijuana Provisions. Rename the statutory section related to county public protection and safety from "possession of marijuana" provision to "regulation of marijuana." Modify statutory language to remove references to the prohibited possession of marijuana, and instead provide that the county board of supervisors may enact and enforce an ordinance that is consistent with marijuana regulation restrictions and penalties (including those for underage persons) in state statute, except that if a complaint is issued alleging a violation of restrictions and penalties under state statute, the subject of the complaint may not be prosecuted under the county ordinance section for the same action that is subject to the complaint, unless specific circumstances are present.

c. *Definitions.* For the purposes of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, modify the definition of "marijuana" to mean all parts of the plants of the genus *Cannabis*, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant, its seeds or resin if the tetrahydrocannabinols concentration of the plant part, seeds, resin, compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation is greater than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis. For the purposes of fair employment provisions, "lawful product" includes marijuana, and "marijuana" has the same meaning as given in the Uniform Controlled Substance Act definition.

Repeal part of the definition of "drug paraphernalia" to exclude: (1) "separation gins and sifters used, designed for use, or primarily intended for use in removing twigs and seeds from, or in otherwise cleaning or refining, marijuana"; (2) references to "roach clips," "chilams," or "bongs"; and (3) any other reference to "marijuana" in the definition.

In addition, repeal part of the definition of "restricted controlled substance" to exclude "delta-9-THC, excluding its procurers or metabolites, at a concentration of one or more nanograms per milliliter of a person's blood." Finally, remove THC, in any form from the definition of "controlled substance" in Wisconsin Works and FoodShare provisions.

[Bill Sections: 1023, 1128, 1156, 1157, 1730, 1925, 1926, 1942, 2023, 2024, 2666, 2786, 3317, 3319 thru 3323, 3325 thru 3333, 3341, 3343 thru 3349, 3356, and 3362 thru 3365]

2. MARIJUANA REGULATIONS -- CRIMINAL AND CIVIL PROVISIONS

Governor: Create a statutory subchapter within the Uniform Controlled Substances Act (Chapter 961) titled "Regulation of Marijuana." Establish the following provisions:

a. *Underage Persons.* Create statutory language to prohibit a permittee from selling, distributing, or delivering marijuana to any underage person, and from permitting (directly or indirectly) an unaccompanied underage person from entering or attempting to enter the premises of a retail outlet. A permittee that violates these prohibitions may be subject to a forfeiture of not more than \$500 and to a permit suspension for an amount of time not to exceed 30 days. Specify that all relevant circumstances may be considered when determining if a permittee has committed a violation, and proof of certain facts by the permittee is a defense to prosecution for such a violation (including the fact that: (1) the underage person falsely represented that he or she had attained the legal age; (2) the appearance of the underage person was such that an ordinary and prudent person would believe that the underage person had attained the legal age; (3) the action was made in good faith and in reliance on the representation and appearance of the underage person in the belief that the underage person had attained the legal age; and (4) that the underage person supported the false representation with documentation that he or she had attained the legal age).

Specify that any underage person who does any of the following is subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$250 nor more than \$500: (1) procures or attempts to procure marijuana from a permittee; (2) falsely represents his or her age for the purpose of receiving marijuana from a permittee; (3) knowingly possesses or consumes marijuana; or (4) enters or knowingly attempts to enter or be on the premises of a retail outlet unaccompanied by a parent, guardian, or spouse of

legal age.

Specify that any individual who has attained the legal age and who knowingly does any of the following may be subject to a forfeiture that does not exceed \$1,000: (1) permits or fails to take action to prevent an underage person from possessing or consuming marijuana on premises owned by the individual or under the individual's control; or (2) encourages or contributes to an underage person procuring or attempting to procure marijuana from a permittee.

b. Prohibitions and Permittee Allowances. Specify that no person, except a permittee, may sell, possess with intent to sell, distribute or deliver, or possess with intent to distribute or deliver marijuana. Any person who violates this prohibition is guilty of a Class I felony (a maximum sentence of one and a half years of confinement and two years extended supervision and/or a \$10,000 fine), except if the individual to whom the marijuana is, or is intended to be, sold, distributed, or delivered has not attained the legal age and the actual or intended seller, distributor, or deliverer is at least three years older than the underage person, in which case the person is guilty of a Class H felony (a maximum sentence of three years of confinement and three years extended supervision and/or a \$10,000 fine).

Specify that a person who is not a permittee and who possesses an amount of marijuana that exceeds the permissible amount by not more than one ounce is subject to a civil forfeiture not to exceed \$1,000.

Specify that a person who is not a permittee that possesses more than six marijuana plants that have reached the flowering stage at one time must apply for a permit, and is one of the following: (1) subject to a forfeiture that is not more than twice the permitting fee (if the number of plants that have reached the flowering stage is 12 or less); (2) subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 90 days or both, if the number of marijuana plants that have reached the flowering stage is more than 12; or (3) guilty of a Class I felony if the number of plants that have reached the flowering stage is more than 12, if the individual has taken action to hide the number of marijuana plants that have reached the flowering stage, and if the person has in place an extreme measure to avoid detection.

Provide that whoever uses or displays marijuana in a public space is subject to a civil forfeiture of not more than \$100. Any person who sells or attempts to sell marijuana via mail, telephone, or Internet is subject to a fine not to exceed \$10,000 or imprisonment not to exceed nine months, or both.

c. Special Disposition for Marijuana-Related Crimes. Provide that a person serving a sentence or on probation may request resentencing or dismissal (by filing a petition with the sentencing court to request resentencing, adjustment of probation, or dismissal) if: (1) the sentence or probation period was imposed for a violation of manufacture, distribution, or delivery of THC, possession with intent to deliver THC, or possession of THC; and (2) the person either would not have been guilty of a crime, or would have been guilty of a lesser crime, had the violation occurred on or after the effective date of this provision. If the sentencing court receives a petition and determines the petitioner has met the eligibility criteria, the court must schedule a hearing on the petition. If the court determines that the person would have been guilty of a lesser crime, had it occurred on or after the effective date of this provision, the court must resentence the person or

adjust the probation (in which case the person must receive credit for time served) and change the record to reflect the lesser crime. If the court determines that the person would not have been guilty of a crime, had the violation occurred on or after the effective date of this provision, the court must dismiss the conviction and expunge the record. Specify that the court must determine that the action does not present a risk or danger to public safety before resentencing, adjusting probation, or dismissing a conviction under these provisions.

Specify that this same criteria allows a person to who has completed his or her period of probation for the specified THC violations to petition the sentencing court to request expungement of the conviction because the conviction is legally invalid, or request redesignation to a lesser crime. If the court changes or expunges a record under this section, a conviction that was changed or expunged is not considered a conviction for any purpose under state or federal law.

d. Definitions. For the purposes of the Regulation of Marijuana subchapter, the following definitions are used:

"Extreme measure to avoid detection" means any of the following: (1) a system that aims to alert a person if law enforcement approaches an area that contains marijuana plants if the system exceeds a security system that would be used by a reasonable person in the person's region; (2) a method of intimidating individuals who approach an area that contains marijuana plants if the method exceeds a method that would be used by a reasonable person in the person's region; or (3) a system that is designed to that an individual approaching the area that contains marijuana plants may be injured or killed by the system.

"Permissible amount" means one of the following: (1) for a person who is a resident of Wisconsin, an amount that does not exceed two ounces of usable marijuana; or (2) for a person who is not a resident of Wisconsin, an amount that does not exceed one-quarter ounce of usable marijuana.

"Tetrahydrocannabinols concentration" means the percent of tetrahydrocannabinol content per dry weight of any part of the plant Cannabis, or per volume or weight of marijuana product, or the combined percent of tetrahydrocannabinol and tetrahydrocannabinol acid and any part of the plant Cannabis regardless of moisture content.

"Underage person" means a person who has not attained the legal age.

"Legal age" means 21 years of age, except that in the case of a qualifying patient. "legal age" means 18 years of age.

"Permittee," "retail outlet," and "usable marijuana" have the same meanings as given in other statutory provisions.

[Bill Sections: 3355 and 3374]

3. LICENSING OF PRODUCERS, PROCESSORS, AND TESTING LABORATORIES

Governor: Establish a program within DATCP to regulate the cultivation, processing, and

laboratory testing of marijuana and products containing THC. Require individuals producing or processing marijuana in Wisconsin to hold a permit from DATCP. Exempt producers and processors handling only industrial hemp from this requirement if they hold an industrial hemp license from the Department.

For the purposes of implementing this provision, define marijuana as all parts of plants in the genus *Cannabis* with THC concentrations greater than 0.3% on a dry weight basis, including seeds, extracted resin, and other derivatives from the plant. Exclude from the definition of marijuana: (a) fiber from *Cannabis* plant stalks; (b) oil or cake made from its seeds; (c) other derivatives of mature stalks except its resin; and (d) any seeds not capable of germination. Further, define marijuana processor as an individual that processes marijuana into a form intended for human consumption, including dried marijuana flowers, marijuana-infused products, and edibles. Define marijuana producer as an individual that produces marijuana for sale at wholesale or for transfer to a processor.

a. *Permit Requirements.* Establish an annual permit fee of \$2,000 for marijuana processors of any size. Establish an annual permit fee of \$1,800 for producers of up to 1,800 plants, \$2,900 for producers of up to 3,600 plants, \$3,600 for producers of up to 6,000 plants, \$5,100 for producers of up to 10,200 plants, and \$7,100 plus \$800 for every 3,600 plants more than 10,200. Limit the term of permits issued to one year unless renewed, and allow permits to be revoked by the Department at any time. Specify that permits are not transferrable between individuals or locations.

To the extent allowable under state law pertaining to prohibitions against discrimination, prohibit DATCP from issuing a permit to any individual or organization if they, or a member of the organization with at least 5% ownership interest:

- (a) have been convicted of a violent misdemeanor at least three times;
- (b) have been convicted of a violent felony, unless the person was pardoned;
- (c) have been involuntarily committed for treatment related to drug dependence within the last three years;
- (d) within the last three years have chronically or habitually consumed alcoholic beverages or other substances, including being involuntarily committed for treatment, or convicted for handling of a firearm while intoxicated, or convicted of a second or subsequent offense of operating a vehicle while intoxicated;
- (e) have an income derived primarily from gambling or have been convicted of multiple offenses related to gambling;
- (f) have been convicted of crimes related to prostitution;
- (g) have been convicted of providing disallowed compensation to persons holding licenses for sale or distribution of alcohol;
- (h) are under age 21; or

- (i) have not lived in Wisconsin continuously for at least 90 days prior to applying.

Prohibit any producer or processor with 20 or more employees from receiving a permit from the Department unless it has entered into a labor peace agreement and certified compliance with that agreement as a condition of its permit. Define a labor peace agreement as an agreement between the permittee and a labor organization that prohibits employee strikes, work stoppages, or other economic interference while also allowing the labor organization to organize employees and educate them on employment rights.

Prohibit the Department from issuing a permit to marijuana producers to operate within 500 feet of any elementary or secondary school, playground, recreational facility, child care facility, public park, public transit facility, or library. Prohibit DATCP from issuing a permit to individuals that have not registered with the Department of Revenue for tax purposes.

b. *Application Process.* Establish a nonrefundable application fee of \$250 for a permit issued by DATCP. Require DATCP to implement a scoring system for approving permits for marijuana cultivation and processing that evaluates how well applicants: (a) protect the environment; (b) provide stable and family-supporting jobs; (c) ensure worker and consumer safety; (d) operate secure facilities; and (e) follow applicable laws. Allow DATCP to reject applications from individuals who lack a sufficiently high score under these criteria, and allow the Department to require applicants to provide documentation to assist DATCP in making determinations of permit approvals. Require the Department to notify an applicant in writing of its reasoning for denying a permit, and specify that either of a denial or an approval is subject to judicial review.

c. *Municipal Review of Permits.* Require DATCP to notify the municipality in which a permittee will operate prior to approving or renewing a permit for marijuana cultivation or processing. Allow a municipality to file an objection to the Department's approval of a permit within 30 days, or longer at DATCP's discretion. Require DATCP to give substantial weight to municipal objections based on: (a) chronic illegal activity associated with any premises controlled by the applicant; (b) conduct of the applicant's patrons at the applicant's premises; and (c) local zoning ordinances. Require DATCP to notify the municipality in writing the reasons for approving or for denying a permit subject to an objection.

d. *Penalties.* Require that any failure to seek permit, violation of a permit condition, or failure to pay permit fees result in a fine of at least \$100 and up to \$500 and/or six months' imprisonment, unless another penalty has been already applied to the violation. Further, require DATCP to revoke a permit of any individual found to be violating permit conditions or failing to pay permit fees, and prohibit an individual from receiving a permit within two years of such a revocation. DATCP may also revoke a permit from any permittee who violates any provision of the bill, any rules promulgated as a result of the bill, and any provision of the Unfair Sales Act three or more times in one year.

e. *Rules.* Require DATCP to promulgate rules to administer its marijuana regulation program, including those related to inspection of operations and products of permittees, training of permittees' employees, and scoring of applications.

f. *Testing Laboratories.* Require DATCP to register laboratories for testing THC, allowing them to possess or manufacture THC or related paraphernalia. Require any laboratory registered by the Department to: (a) test marijuana produced for medical use for potency, spoilage, and contaminants; (b) review and conduct research on medical use of THC and unsafe levels of contaminants; (c) provide training for safe cultivation, processing, and distribution of THC for medical use; (d) provide training on security and inventory accountability; and (e) provide training on recent research regarding use of THC.

g. *Prohibition on Local Control.* Specify that no municipality may prohibit the cultivation of THC-containing plants outdoors if cultivation is for personal use and does not exceed six marijuana plants at one time.

h. *Training and Outreach.* Require DATCP to develop a training program for marijuana producers and processors on how to safely and efficiently grow, handle, and test marijuana products. Further, require DATCP to conduct an awareness campaign about the availability and viability of marijuana cultivation and sale in Wisconsin.

i. *Funding.* Provide the Department \$208,900 PR in 2023-24 and \$258,600 PR in 2024-25 with 3.0 PR positions for administration of the program, funded from permit revenues. Additional information on funding and positions related to the program is shown in an entry under "Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection- Regulatory Programs."

[Bill Sections: 267, 268, 1180, 1731, and 1732]

4. MEDICAL MARIJUANA REGISTRY

Governor: Create a medical marijuana registry program administered by DOR as follows:

a. *Application for a Registry Identification Card.* Specify that an adult claiming to be a qualified patient may apply for a registry identification card by submitting to DOR a signed application form that contains all of the following: (a) the applicant's name, address, and date of birth; (b) a written certification; and (c) the name, address, and telephone number of the applicant's current physician, as listed in the written certification.

b. *Processing the Application.* Require DOR to verify the information submitted by an applicant to the registry and approve or deny the application within 30 days of receipt. Specify that DOR could deny an application only if the required information had not been provided or if false information had been provided.

c. *Issuance of a Registry Identification Card.* Require DOR to issue a registry identification card and tax exemption certificate within five days of approving an application. Specify that a registry identification card and tax exemption certificate expire four years from the date of issuance, except that DOR would be authorized to void or revoke the card and certificate under certain circumstances. Specify that a registry identification card would have to contain all of the following information: (a) the name, address, and date of birth of the registrant; (b) the date of issuance and expiration of the card; (c) a photograph of the registrant; and (d) other information DOR may require by rule. DOR would have to determine what information the tax exemption

certificate would contain. The tax exemption certificate would allow individuals holding the certificate to purchase usable marijuana without paying the sales tax or the 10% retail excise tax that would otherwise be imposed under the bill.

d. *Additional Information to be Provided by Registrant.* Require a registrant to notify DOR of any change in the registrant's name and address. Specify that a registrant who is a qualifying patient would have to notify DOR of any change in his or her physician, or of any significant improvement in his or her health as it relates to his or her debilitating medical condition or treatment. Specify that if the registrant fails to notify DOR within 10 days of any change for which notification is required, his or her registry identification card and tax exemption certificate would be void.

e. *Definitions.* For the purposes of the registry, define a "qualifying patient" as a person who has been diagnosed by a physician as having or undergoing a debilitating medical condition or treatment, but not including a person under the age of 18 years.

Define a "debilitating medical condition or treatment" as any of the following: (a) cancer, glaucoma, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease (including ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease), a hepatitis C virus infection, Alzheimer's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, nail patella syndrome, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, post-traumatic stress disorder, or the treatment of these conditions; (b) a positive test for the presence of HIV, antigen or nonantigenic products of HIV, or an antibody to HIV, or the treatment of these conditions; and (c) a chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition, or the treatment of such a disease or condition, that causes cachexia, severe pain, severe nausea, seizures, including those characteristic of epilepsy, or severe and persistent muscle spasms, including those characteristic of multiple sclerosis.

Define a "physician" as a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery in Wisconsin.

Define a "written certification" as a statement made by a person's physician for which all of the following apply: (a) it indicates that, in the physician's professional opinion, the person has or is undergoing a debilitating medical condition or treatment and the potential benefits of the person's use of usable marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks for the person; (b) it indicates that this opinion was formed after a full assessment of the person's medical history and current medical condition that was conducted no more than six months prior to making the statement and that the opinion was made in the course of a bona fide physician-patient relationship; (c) it is signed by the physician or is contained in the person's medical records; and (d) it contains an expiration date that is no more than 48 months (four years) after issuance and has not expired.

Define "useable marijuana" as marijuana that has been processed for human consumption and includes dried marijuana flowers, marijuana-infused products, and marijuana edibles.

Define "tax exemption certificate" to mean a certificate to claim the sales tax exemption, which would be created under the bill, from the sale of, and the storage, use, or other consumption of, usable marijuana.

f. *Records.* Require DOR to maintain a list of all registrants. Prohibit DOR from disclosing information from applications it receives or from registration cards that it issues,

notwithstanding state laws governing access to records. Permit DOR to disclose, upon request of a state or local law enforcement agency, information from a person's application or a registry identification card necessary to verify that a person possesses a valid registry identification card.

g. *Rules.* Authorize DOR to promulgate rules to implement the medical marijuana registry program.

[Bill Section: 1544]

5. MARIJUANA TAX AND REGULATION

SEG-REV \$44,400,000

Governor: Impose an excise tax on marijuana producers at a rate of 15% of the sales price on wholesale sales or transfers in this state of marijuana to marijuana processors. The wholesale excise tax would also apply to a microbusiness that transfers marijuana to a processing operation within the microbusiness. Additionally, impose an excise tax on marijuana retailers at a rate of 10% of the sales price on retail sales of usable marijuana. Specify that the excise tax on retail sales would not apply to sales of usable marijuana to individuals who hold a tax exemption certificate indicating that they are members of the medical marijuana registry. [See "General Fund Taxes -- Excise Taxes and Other Taxes."] Under the bill, persons liable for the excise taxes would have to pay the taxes to DOR no later than the fifteenth day of the month following the month in which the tax liability was incurred, along with a return, on a form prescribed by DOR. Specify that the state sales and use tax also would not apply for sales of useable marijuana to members of the medical marijuana registry. [See "General Fund Taxes -- Sales and Use Taxes."]

The bill generally establishes that the distribution and sale of marijuana would have to follow a four-tier distribution system, from marijuana producers to processors to distributors to retailers. It specifies that marijuana producers may not sell directly to distributors, and retailers may only purchase usable marijuana from distributors. This provision does not apply to a microbusiness that transfers marijuana or usable marijuana to another operation within the microbusiness. The bill would establish the following provisions regulating the sale and distribution of taxable marijuana. Further, DOR would be required to, and could promulgate rules necessary to, administer and enforce these provisions.

a. *Definitions.* The bill would define the following terms.

1. "Marijuana" would have the same meaning as under state laws governing controlled substances (which would be modified under a previously described provision of the bill). "Useable marijuana" would mean marijuana that has been processed for human consumption and would include dried marijuana flowers, marijuana-infused products, and marijuana edibles.

2. "Marijuana producer" would mean a person who produces marijuana and sells it at wholesale or otherwise transfers it to marijuana processors.

3. "Marijuana processor" would mean a person who processes marijuana into usable marijuana, packages and labels usable marijuana for sale in retail outlets, and sells at wholesale or otherwise transfers usable marijuana to marijuana distributors.

4. "Marijuana distributor" would mean a person in this state who purchases or receives usable marijuana from a marijuana processor and who sells or otherwise transfers the usable marijuana to a marijuana retailer for the purpose of resale to consumers.

5. "Marijuana retailer" would mean a person that sells usable marijuana at a retail outlet.

6. "Microbusiness" would mean a marijuana producer that produces marijuana in one area that is less than 10,000 square feet and who also operates as any two of the following: (i) a marijuana processor; (ii) a marijuana distributor; or (iii) a marijuana retailer.

7. "Permittee" would mean a marijuana producer, marijuana processor, marijuana distributor, marijuana retailer, or microbusiness that would be issued a permit from DOR to conduct business.

8. "Retail outlet" would mean a location for the retail sale of usable marijuana.

9. "Sales price" would mean the total amount of consideration, as defined under laws governing the state sales and use tax.

10. "Lot" would mean a definite quantity of marijuana or usable marijuana identified by a lot number, every portion or package of which is consistent with the factors that appear in the labeling. A "lot number" would mean a number that specifies the marijuana permittee and the harvesting or processing date for each lot.

b. *Permit Requirements.* The following permit requirements apply to any officers, directors, agents, and stockholders holding 5% or more of the stock of any corporation applying for a permit from DOR. Require that all marijuana producers, processors, distributors, retailers, and microbusinesses apply for and obtain the proper permit from DOR prior to performing such operations. Specify that a separate permit would be required for, and issued to, each class of permittee, and the permit holder would only be allowed to perform operations authorized by the permit. Require each applicant for a permit to pay a nonrefundable application fee of \$250. Additionally, require marijuana producers and processors to obtain the proper permit from DATCP.

Specify that permits issued by DOR would be nontransferable. Therefore, a separate permit would be required for each place in this state where the operations of a marijuana producer, processor, distributor, retailer, or microbusiness would occur, including each retail outlet. Any person who has been issued a permit to operate as a marijuana retailer, or who has any direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of a marijuana retailer, would not be issued a permit to operate as a producer, processor, or distributor. A person who intends to operate as a microbusiness would not be required to hold separate permits to operate as a marijuana processor, distributor, or retailer, but would have to specify, on the application for a microbusiness permit, the activities that the person would be engaged in as a microbusiness.

Require DOR to implement a competitive scoring system for approving permits. Permits would be issued to the highest scoring applicants, of which DOR determines would best: (a) protect the environment; (b) provide stable, family-supporting jobs to local residents; (c) ensure worker and consumer safety; (d) operate secure facilities; and (e) uphold the laws of the jurisdictions in

which they operate. With regard to an applicant for a marijuana retailer permit, DOR would be required to score the applicant, using criteria established by rule, on the applicant's ability to articulate a social equity plan related to the operation of a marijuana retail establishment. The bill would give DOR the ability to deny a permit to an applicant with a low score. DOR would also be allowed to request from the applicant, any information or documentation that the Department deems necessary for determining whether to grant or deny a permit.

Prohibit any distributor or retailer with 20 or more employees from receiving a permit from DOR unless it has entered into a labor peace agreement and certified compliance with that agreement as a condition of its permit. Certification would entail submitting to DOR a copy of the page of the labor peace agreement that contains the signatures of the labor organization representative and the applicant. Additionally, prohibit DOR from issuing a permit to any person who does not hold a valid business tax registration certificate with DOR.

Prohibit DOR from issuing a permit to any applicant if they:

1. Have been convicted of a violent misdemeanor at least three times;
2. Have been convicted of a violent felony, unless the person was pardoned;
3. Have been committed for involuntary treatment related to drug dependence within the last three years;
4. Have income that comes principally from gambling or have been convicted of two or more gambling offenses;
5. Have been convicted of crimes relating to prostitution;
6. Have been convicted of crimes relating to loaning money, or anything of value, to persons holding alcohol beverage licenses or permits;
7. Are under the age of 21;
8. Have not lived in Wisconsin continuously for at least 90 days prior to applying; or
9. Within the last three years, have chronically and habitually consumed alcoholic beverages or other substances to the extent that his or her normal faculties are impaired. This provision applies to persons that: (i) have been involuntarily committed for treatment; (ii) have been convicted for handling of a firearm while intoxicated; or (iii) have two or more cases arising out of separate incidents where a court found the person violated a law relating to operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, a controlled substance analog, or a combination thereof, with an excess or specified range of alcohol concentration, or while under the influence of any drug to a degree that renders the person incapable of safely driving, whether the incident was in violation of: (a) a Wisconsin law or local ordinance in conformity with state law; (b) a law of a federally-recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state; or (c) a law of another jurisdiction.

Additionally, prohibit DOR from issuing a permit to operate any premises which would be within 500 feet of the perimeter of the grounds of any elementary or secondary school, playground,

recreation facility, child care facility, public park, public transit facility, or library.

Require that DOR, prior to issuing a new or renewed permit, give notice of the permit application to the governing body of the municipality where the permit applicant intends to operate the premises as a marijuana producer, processor, distributor, retailer, or microbusiness. The governing body of the municipality could file with DOR a written objection to granting or renewing the permit no later than 30 days after DOR submits the notice. The period for filing objections could be extended by DOR, at the municipality's request. Written objections would have to provide all the facts on which the objection is based. In determining whether to grant or deny a permit for which an objection has been filed, the bill would direct DOR to give substantial weight to an objection based on: (a) chronic illegal activity associated with the premises for which the applicant seeks a permit or the premises of any other operation in this state for which the applicant holds or has held a valid permit or license; (b) the conduct of the applicant's patrons inside or outside the premises of any other operation in this state for which the applicant holds, or has held, a valid permit or license; and (c) local zoning ordinances. Define "chronic illegal activity" under this provision as a pervasive pattern of activity that threatens the public health, safety, and welfare of the municipality, including any crime or ordinance violation, and that is documented in crime statistics, police reports, emergency medical response data, calls for service, field data, or similar law enforcement agency records.

Under the bill, if DOR denies a permit, the Department would be required to immediately notify the applicant in writing of the denial and the reasons for the denial. After making a decision to grant or deny a permit for which a municipality filed an objection, DOR would have to immediately notify the governing body of the municipality in writing of its decision and the reasons for the decision. Specify that both DOR's decisions to deny or grant a permit, regardless of an objection filed by a municipality, would be subject to judicial review.

A permit issued by DOR would be valid for one year and could be renewed, except that DOR could revoke or suspend a permit prior to its expiration. Each person granted a permit would be required to pay an annual fee of \$2,000 for as long as the person held the valid permit. Permittees would not be entitled to refunds of the annual fee if their permits were revoked or suspended. Each permittee would have to post the permit in a conspicuous place on the premises to which the permit relates.

c. *Regulation.* Establish several regulations that govern the activities of permittees. Prohibit any permittee from employing an individual who is under the age of 21, or to which any condition under items 1. through 6. and 9. in the "Permit Requirements" section would apply. Require every employee, immediately after beginning employment, to receive training approved by DOR on: (a) the safe handling of marijuana and usable marijuana; and (b) security and inventory accountability procedures.

Specify that retail outlets could only operate between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., and would not be allowed to sell products or services other than usable marijuana or paraphernalia intended for the storage or use of usable marijuana. Prohibit retailers from selling more than two ounces of usable marijuana (or ¼ ounce to non-Wisconsin residents) to an individual consumer in a single transaction. In conducting the transaction, retailers could not collect, retain, or distribute personal information regarding the retailer's customers, except that which would be necessary to

complete the sale of usable marijuana. Require that retailers restrict from entering or being on the premises of a retail outlet any individual under the age of 21, unless that individual is accompanied by a parent or guardian or is a qualifying patient.

Prohibit retailers from displaying any signage in a window, on a door, or on the outside of the premises of the retail outlet that would be visible to the general public from a public right-of-way, with the exception of a single sign, that would be no larger than 1,600 square inches, identifying the retail outlet by the permittee's business or trade name. Additionally, prohibit retailers from displaying usable marijuana in any manner that is visible to the general public from a public right of way. Specify that all marijuana retailers and retail employees would be prohibited from consuming, or allowing to be consumed, any usable marijuana on the premises of the retail outlet.

Prohibit all permittees from placing or maintaining an advertisement of usable marijuana in any form or through any medium.

Authorize DOR to develop, by rule, standards to which marijuana and usable marijuana would have to comply. Establish the following baseline standards: (a) no permittee would be allowed to sell marijuana or usable marijuana that contains more than three parts THC to one part cannabidiol; and (b) no permittee could sell marijuana or usable marijuana that tests positive for mold, fungus, pesticides, or other contaminants, if the contaminants, or level of contaminants, are identified by a testing laboratory to be potentially unsafe to the consumer.

In order to certify that the marijuana and usable marijuana would comply with DOR standards, including testing for potency and for mold, fungus, pesticides, and other contaminants, require that representative samples of the marijuana and usable marijuana produced or processed by every marijuana producer, processor, or microbusiness, be submitted, on a schedule determined by DOR, to a testing laboratory registered by DATCP. After testing, require each laboratory to destroy any part of the sample that remains. Require that the results of the testing be submitted by marijuana producers, processors, and microbusinesses to DOR in the manner prescribed by the Department by rule. If a representative sample did not meet DOR's prescribed standards, the Department would have to take the necessary action to ensure that the entire lot from which the sample was taken is destroyed. DOR would be required to promulgate rules: (a) to determine lots and lot numbers for purposes of testing; and (b) for the reporting of lots and lot numbers to the Department.

Under the bill, a marijuana processor, or a microbusiness that operates as a marijuana processor, would have to affix a label to all usable marijuana sold to marijuana distributors. Prohibit the label from being designed to appeal to persons under the age of 18. Require the label to include all of the following: (a) the ingredients and the THC concentration in the usable marijuana; (b) the producer's business or trade name; (c) the producer's permit number; (d) the harvest batch number of the marijuana; (e) the harvest date; (f) the strain name and product identity; (g) the net weight; (h) the activation time; (i) the name of the laboratory performing any test, the test batch number, and the test analysis dates; (j) the logotype for recreational marijuana developed by DATCP; and (k) warnings about the risks of marijuana use and pregnancy and the risks of marijuana use by persons under the age of 18. Additionally, the label on each package of usable marijuana could indicate that the usable marijuana is made in this state; however, this would

not be a requirement, as all marijuana processors, or microbusinesses operating as processors, would be prohibited from using marijuana grown outside this state to make usable marijuana.

d. *Records and Reports.* Require permittees to keep accurate and complete records of the production and sales of marijuana and usable marijuana in Wisconsin. Require that the records be kept on the premises described in the permit and in such manner as to ensure permanency and accessibility for inspection at reasonable hours by DOR's authorized personnel. DOR would have to prescribe reasonable and uniform methods for recordkeeping and making reports, and would have to provide the necessary forms to permittees.

Allow DOR to require, by giving notice, that a permittee revise its records, if the Department determines that the records are not kept in the prescribed form, or are in such a condition that requires an unusual amount of time for DOR to review. If the permittee fails to comply within 30 days, DOR would be required to send a bill requiring the permittee pay, within 10 days, the expenses reasonably attributable to a proper examination and tax determination at the rate of \$30 per day for each auditor used to make the examination and determination.

Require payment of a \$10 late filing fee by any permittee who fails to file a report when due. A mailed report would be filed on time if: (a) it is mailed in a properly addressed envelope with postage prepaid; (b) the envelope is officially postmarked, or marked or recorded electronically under federal postal regulations, on the due date; and (c) the report is actually received by DOR, or at the destination that DOR prescribes, within five days of the due date. These criteria would apply to reports mailed by a designated delivery service. A report that is not mailed would be timely if it were received by DOR, or at its prescribed destination, on or before the due date.

The provisions relating to taxpayer confidentiality of income, franchise, and gift tax returns, would apply under the bill to any information obtained from: (a) any permittee on a tax return, report, schedule, exhibit, or other document; or (b) an audit report relating to the return, report, schedule, exhibit, or document. The exception to this provision would be that DOR would have to publish production and sales statistics under the bill.

e. *Administration and Enforcement.* Require DOR to administer and enforce the provisions relating to marijuana taxation and regulation and to promulgate any rules necessary to do so. Provide duly authorized DOR employees with all necessary police powers to prevent violations. Additionally, authorized personnel of the Department of Justice and DOR, and any law enforcement officer within their respective jurisdictions, would be allowed to, at all reasonable hours, enter the premises of any permittee and examine the books and records to determine whether the excise tax imposed has been fully paid and may enter and inspect any premises where marijuana or usable marijuana is produced, processed, made, sold, or stored, to determine whether the permittee is complying with all laws governing marijuana taxation and regulation.

Authorize DOR to suspend or revoke the permit of any permittee who violates any provision or rule governing marijuana taxation or regulation, or who violates the Unfair Sales Act. Require DOR to revoke the permit of any permittee who violates the Unfair Sales Act three or more times within a five-year period. Treat as a public nuisance, subject to closure and abatement, any building or location where unlawful sale, possession, storage, or manufacture of marijuana or usable

marijuana were to occur.

Prohibit any suit that would restrain or delay collection or payment of marijuana excise taxes. Require all aggrieved taxpayers to pay tax when due and, if paid under protest, allow the taxpayer to sue the state to recover the tax paid at any time within 90 days from the payment date. Specify that the taxpayer could request recovery in one suit for as many payments as have been made. Require the Secretary of Administration to pay any tax amount that is determined to be wrongfully collected.

Upon request of the Secretary of DOR, the Attorney General may represent Wisconsin or assist a district attorney in prosecuting any case regarding marijuana excise taxes and regulation. Grant immunity from prosecution to any person compelled to testify in regard to a violation of marijuana tax regulations, of which that person may have knowledge. Specify that immunity would only apply to the use of the compelled testimony which may tend to incriminate the person, subject to restrictions under laws governing criminal trials.

Several current law provisions on assessment and collection of taxes, as they govern income and franchise taxes, would apply to marijuana excise taxes under the bill. These include provisions regarding: (a) office and field audits; (b) notices of adjustments; (c) notices of additional assessment; (d) additional tax collections or refunds, except that the period during which notice of additional assessment would have to be given begins on the due date of the report required from marijuana permittees; (e) additional methods of tax collection; (f) statutes of limitations on assessments and refunds; (g) tax collection and delinquency, other than the timing that withholding becomes delinquent and the financial record matching program; (h) compromises; and (i) denial of licenses due to tax delinquency. The provisions on timely filing as they apply to income and franchise taxes under current law would also apply to marijuana excise taxes.

f. *Theft of Tax Moneys.* Specify that all marijuana tax moneys received by a permittee for the sale of marijuana or usable marijuana on which the excise tax were to become due and not paid would be trust funds in the permittee's possession and would be the property of this state. Any permittee who fraudulently withholds, appropriates, or otherwise uses marijuana tax moneys that are the property of this state would be guilty of theft, whether or not the permittee has, or claims to have, an interest in those moneys.

g. *Seizure and Confiscation.* Specify that all marijuana and usable marijuana produced, processed, made, kept, stored, sold, distributed, or transported in violation of the rules and regulations governing marijuana taxation and regulation, and all tangible personal property used in connection with the marijuana or usable marijuana, would be unlawful property and subject to seizure by DOR or a law enforcement officer.

Specify the following treatment of marijuana or usable marijuana that has been seized. If the excise tax has not been paid, the marijuana or usable marijuana could be given, if fit for use and practical, to law enforcement officers to use in criminal investigations or sold to qualified buyers by DOR, without notice. The Department would have to order any marijuana or usable marijuana deemed unfit or impractical for these purposes to be destroyed. If the excise tax has been paid, the marijuana or usable marijuana would be returned to the true owner if ownership could be ascertained and the owner or the owner's agent was not involved in the violation resulting

in the seizure. If the ownership could not be ascertained or if the owner or the owner's agent was guilty of the violation that resulted in the seizure of the marijuana or usable marijuana, it could be sold (if fit for use and practical) or destroyed.

Require DOR to advertise for sale any tangible personal property seized, other than marijuana or usable marijuana, by publication in a newspaper that is likely to give notice in the area or to the person affected. Require DOR to insert this notice in the newspaper at least two times. If no person claiming a lien on, or ownership of, the property has notified the Department of the person's claim within 10 days after last insertion of the notice, DOR would be required sell the property. If a person claiming a lien on, or ownership of, the property were to notify DOR within this time period, the Department could apply to the circuit court in the county where the property was seized for an order directing disposition of the property or the proceeds from the sale of the property. If the court were to order the property to be sold, all liens, if any, would be transferred from the property to the sale proceeds. Neither the property seized nor the proceeds from the sale would be turned over to any claimant of lien or ownership unless the claimant first establishes that the property was not used in connection with any violation or that, if so used, it was done without the claimant's knowledge or consent and without the claimant's knowledge of facts that should have given the claimant reason to believe it would be put to such use. If no claim of lien or ownership is established, or if sale is not practical, the property could be ordered destroyed.

h. *Interest and Penalties.* Several current law provisions on interest and penalties, as they govern the cigarette tax, would also be created to apply to the excise taxes on marijuana under the bill. These include penalties for: (a) filing false or fraudulent reports; (b) failing to maintain required records; (c) refusing to permit authorized examinations or inspections, except that imprisonment would be for not more than six months; (d) violating any marijuana provision without its own penalty; and (e) violating DOR rules. Interest and penalty provisions as they apply for delinquent and nondelinquent payments and neglect would be created to also apply for marijuana excise tax purposes. Additionally, DOR would be required to revoke the permit of any person who violates the provisions and rules governing marijuana taxation, and could not issue another permit until two years following revocation.

i. *Personal Use.* Specify that a person possessing no more than six marijuana plants that have reached the flowering stage at any one time would not be subject to marijuana excise taxes, while a person possessing more than six plants would be required to obtain the appropriate seller's permit and pay the appropriate excise tax.

j. *Funding and Positions.* Provide \$3,284,300 in 2023-24 and \$2,073,600 in 2024-25 and 18.0 positions annually in a new GPR appropriation under DOR for the purposes of: (a) administering the marijuana tax; and (b) enforcing the proposed taxation and regulation of marijuana producers, processors, and retailers. [See "Revenue -- Tax Administration."]

k. *Tax Revenues.* These provisions would take effect on the effective date of the bill. However, the Administration indicates that it does not estimate a fiscal effect associated with the collection of marijuana sales and excise taxes until 2024-25, as it is uncertain how long it will take for marijuana permits to be issued and for legal sales to be made. The Administration estimates that the imposition of wholesale and retail excise taxes on marijuana would result in collections of

\$21,900,000 and \$22,500,000, respectively, beginning in 2024-25 and annually thereafter (total excise tax collections of \$44,400,000 in 2024-25). The bill would specify that all moneys received from marijuana excise taxes would be deposited into the newly established community reinvestment fund, and an estimated \$44,400,000 SEG-REV would be deposited into that fund in 2024-25. [See "Health Services -- Behavioral Health."] In addition, the Administration estimates the sales and use tax imposed on legal recreational marijuana would increase state tax revenues by \$10,200,000 beginning in 2024-25 and annually thereafter.

1. *Permit Fee Revenues.* The Administration estimates that DOR would issue 300 initial permits in 2023-24 and an additional 60 new permits in 2024-25. As noted above, DOR would collect fees totaling \$2,250 for each new permit issued (\$250 application fee plus \$2,000 initial annual permit fee) and \$2,000 for each permit that would be renewed in a given year. Fees collected would be deposited directly into the general fund. As a result, the Administration estimates that GPR-REV from DOR would increase by \$675,000 in 2023-24 and \$735,000 in 2024-25. [See "Revenue -- Tax Administration."]

m. *Agreement with Tribes.* Allow DOR to enter into an agreement with federally-recognized American Indian tribes in this state: (a) for the administration and enforcement of marijuana excise taxes and regulation; and (b) to provide refunds of the excise taxes imposed on marijuana sold on tribal land by or to enrolled members of the tribe residing on the tribal land. Create a new sum sufficient GPR appropriation to pay refunds to eligible tribes for marijuana excise taxes collected, including interest and penalties, and provide \$2,200,000 in 2024-25 as an estimate of the amounts that would be refunded to the tribes. [See "General Fund Taxes -- Refundable Credits and Other Payments."]

[Bill Sections: 523, 537, 598, 1602, 1735, and 2294]

6. DHS GRANTS TO SUPPORT COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Governor: Create a segregated appropriation, supported by the community reinvestment fund, that would authorize DHS to expend all moneys it receives from the fund to provide grants to counties to support mental health and substance use disorder services. Estimate that DHS would expend \$44,400,000 from the appropriation in 2024-25. Require DHS to promulgate administrative rules establishing the grants. [See "Health Services -- Behavioral Health."]

[Bill Sections: 419 and 2581]

7. ANATOMICAL GIFTS

Governor: Provide that, unless otherwise required by federal law, a hospital, physician, procurement organization, or other person may not determine the ultimate recipient of an anatomical gift based solely upon a positive test for the use of marijuana by a potential recipient.

[Bill Sections: 2319 and 2320]

8. UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE -- DISCHARGE FOR USE OF MARIJUANA

Governor: Provide that an employee's use of marijuana off the employer's premises during nonworking hours, or a violation of the employer's policy concerning such use, does not constitute misconduct or substantial fault under current unemployment insurance (UI) law unless termination for that use is permitted under one of the current exceptions under the state's fair employment law. Under current law, an individual may be disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance benefits if the individual is terminated because of misconduct or substantial fault.

Under current UI law, as it pertains to the Department of Workforce Development's pre-employment and occupational employment drug testing programs, "controlled substance" has the meaning given in 21 USC 802, which includes marijuana. This provision is not modified under the bill.

[Bill Sections: 1896, 1898, 1925, 1926, and 1942]

9. MARIJUANA TAX IMPLEMENTATION STUDY

Governor: Direct the Joint Legislative Council to study the implementation of the marijuana tax and regulation and identify uses for the revenues generated by the tax. Require the Joint Legislative Council to report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Joint Committee on Finance no later than two years after the effective date of this subsection.

[Bill Section: 9128(1)]