

7043       Sec. 148. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section,  
7044 "municipality" means any town, city or borough, consolidated town and  
7045 city or consolidated town and borough, and a district establishing a  
7046 zoning commission under section 7-326 of the general statutes.

7047       (b) Any municipality may, by amendment to such municipality's  
7048 zoning regulations or by local ordinance, (1) prohibit the establishment  
7049 of a cannabis establishment, (2) establish reasonable restrictions  
7050 regarding the hours and signage within the limits of such municipality,  
7051 or (3) establish restrictions on the proximity of cannabis establishments  
7052 to any of the establishments listed in subsection (a) of subdivision (1) of  
7053 section 30-46 of the general statutes. The chief zoning official of a  
7054 municipality shall report, in writing, any zoning changes adopted by the  
7055 municipality regarding cannabis establishments pursuant to this  
7056 subsection to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and  
7057 to the department not later than fourteen days after the adoption of such  
7058 changes.

7059       (c) Unless otherwise provided for by a municipality through its  
7060 zoning regulations or ordinances, a cannabis establishment shall be  
7061 zoned as if for any other similar use, other than a cannabis  
7062 establishment, would be zoned.

7063       (d) Any restriction regarding hours, zoning and signage of a cannabis  
7064 establishment adopted by a municipality shall not apply to an existing  
7065 cannabis establishment located in such municipality if such cannabis  
7066 establishment does not convert to a different license type, for a period  
7067 of five years after the adoption of such prohibition or restriction.

7068       (e) Until June 30, 2024, no municipality shall grant zoning approval  
7069 for more retailers or micro-cultivators than a number that would allow  
7070 for one retailer and one micro-cultivator for every twenty-five thousand  
7071 residents of such municipality, as determined by the most recent  
7072 decennial census.

7073       (f) On and after July 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Consumer

7074 Protection may, in the discretion of the commissioner, post on the  
7075 Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site a specific  
7076 number of residents such that no municipality shall grant zoning  
7077 approval for more retailers or micro-cultivators than would result in one  
7078 retailer and one micro-cultivator for every such specific number of  
7079 residents, as determined by the commissioner. Any such determination  
7080 shall be made to ensure reasonable access to cannabis by consumers.

7081 (g) For purposes of ensuring compliance with this section, a special  
7082 permit or other affirmative approval shall be required for any retailer or  
7083 micro-cultivator seeking to be located within a municipality. A  
7084 municipality shall not grant such special permit or approval for any  
7085 retailer or micro-cultivator applying for such special permit or approval  
7086 if that would result in an amount that (1) until June 30, 2024, exceeds the  
7087 density cap of one retailer and one micro-cultivator for every twenty-  
7088 five thousand residents, and (2) on and after July 1, 2024, exceeds any  
7089 density cap determined by the commissioner under subsection (f) of this  
7090 section. When awarding final licenses for a retailer or micro-cultivator,  
7091 the Department of Consumer Protection may assume that, if an  
7092 applicant for such final license has obtained zoning approval, the  
7093 approval of a final license for such applicant shall not result in a  
7094 violation of this section or any other municipal restrictions on the  
7095 number or density of cannabis establishments.

7096 Sec. 149. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Thirty days after the Social  
7097 Equity Council posts the criteria for social equity applicants on its  
7098 Internet web site, the department shall open up a three-month  
7099 application period for cultivators during which a social equity applicant  
7100 may apply to the department for a provisional cultivator license and  
7101 final license for a cultivation facility located in a disproportionately  
7102 impacted area without participating in a lottery or request for proposals.  
7103 Such application for a provisional license shall be granted upon (1)  
7104 verification by the Social Equity Council that the applicant meets the  
7105 criteria for a social equity applicant; (2) the applicant submitting to and  
7106 passing a criminal background check; and (3) payment of a three-